# THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
1900 - 1975

by

George Z. Alden

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# THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

## EPISCOPAL

LAWRENCE AND GREENE STREETS

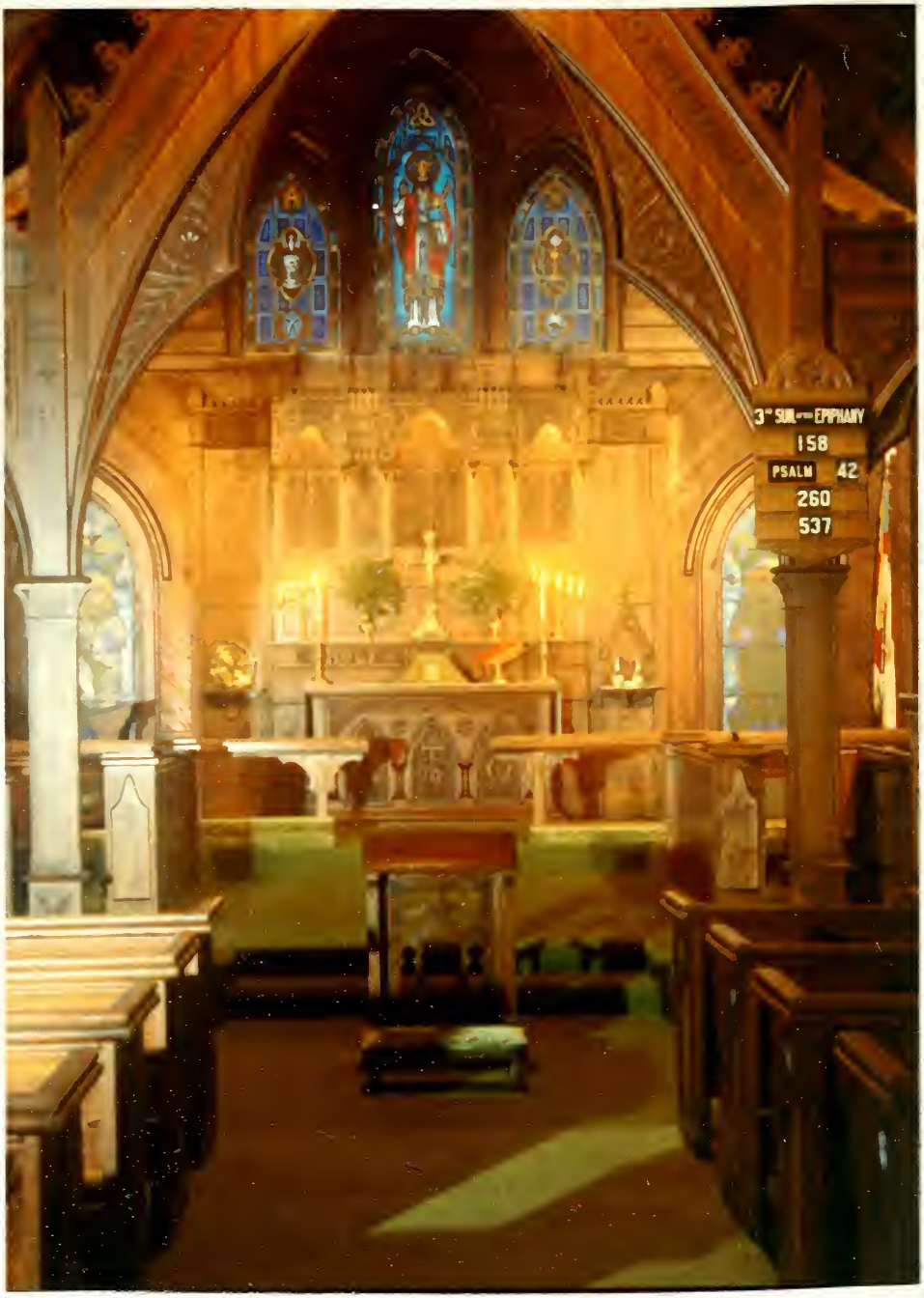
ROCKINGHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## A HISTORICAL SKETCH

## 1900 - 1975

THE REVEREND ROLAND J. WHITMIRE, JR.

RECTOR




Picture of the Altar of the Church of the Messiah

# The Church Of The Messiah

## 1900 – 1975

A sketch of the work of dedicated Episcopalians in Rockingham, North Carolina, during both the Mission and Parish Periods.

Compiled
By
George Z. Alden

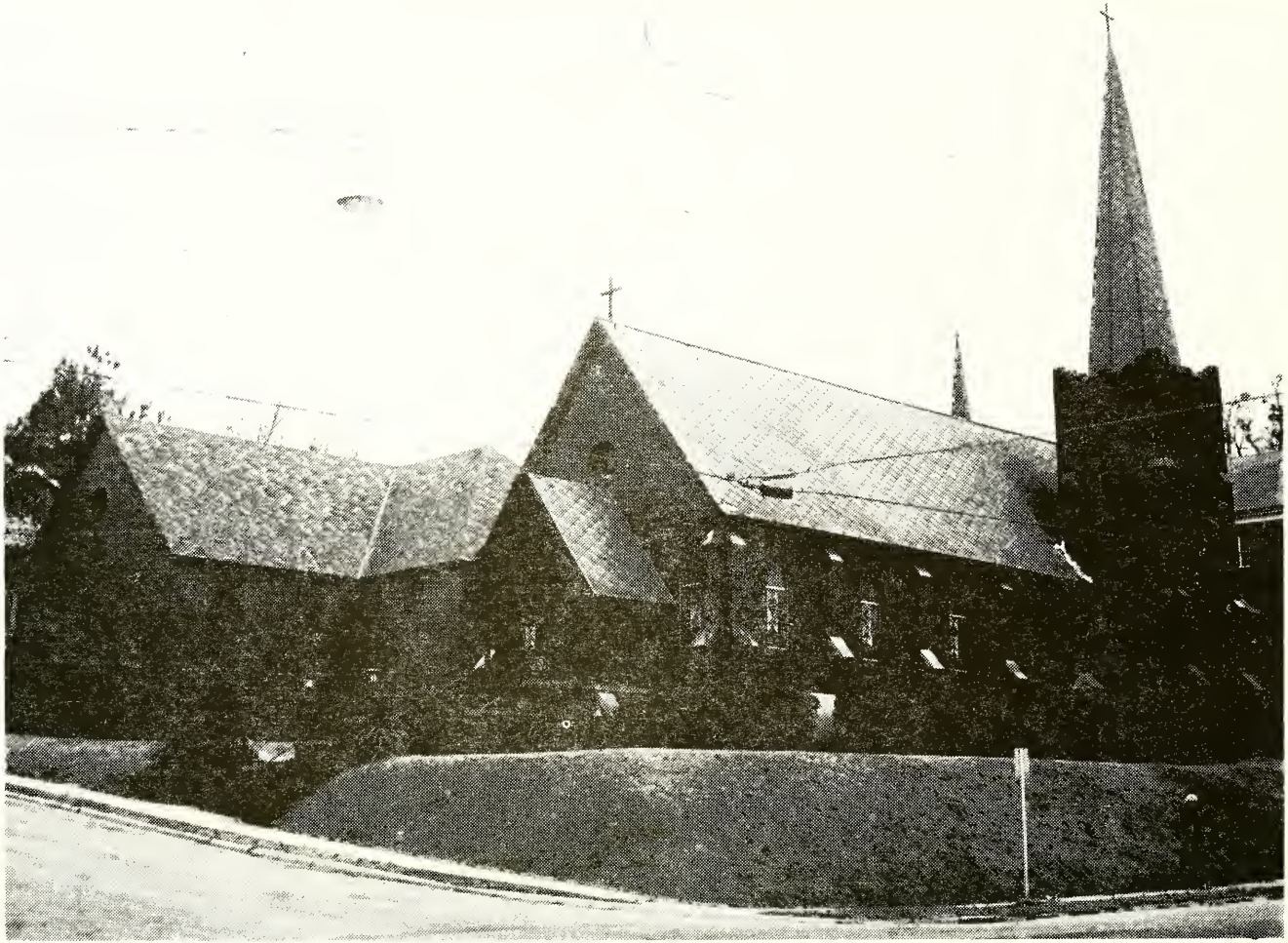
**1975**

**Rockingham, North Carolina**

Picture of the. Choir

# *Dedication*

This Sketch is dedicated to all those members of the Episcopal Church who worshiped in Rockingham without a regular church; all who had a Dream of years to come, and those who made the Dream come true; and all those who labor now in the Service of the Master.



Picture of Church — 1963 (after being "brick veneered") (as now)

## SOURCE MATERIAL

To do justice to the history of a church, one must search in many places for clues. What is more complicated, with all its ramifications and overlapping of powers than the government and protocol of the Protestant Episcopal Church as it exists in the United States of America?

Of the reputed 3,400,000 Episcopalians in this country, the members of the Church of the Messiah of Rockingham, North Carolina, have, from time to time, participated in most of the phases of the over-all episcopal process. Who were they? Where are they? Who was born, baptized, confirmed? Who played his part as an actual member in our local church? Who laughed, sang, played the organ, came to church in weather foul or fair? Who served as acolytes? In Sunday Schools? Who gave generously of his knowledge, time, wealth and influence? His penny, his simple faith, his love of beauty, of friendship? Who arranged the flowers, beautified the buildings, cared for the linens, hosted parties, prepared endless dishes for covered suppers? Who fathered and mothered the children needed to perpetuate the members of the church? Who attended the funerals and bade farewell to our parishional brothers in Christ?

Much of the personal history in this sketch has been selected from a medley of facts found in the Isaac London **Scrapbook.** As editor of the **Post-Dispatch** for nearly half a century, and likewise an Episcopalian who, over the years, served in many responsible capacities, Mr. London knew and recorded information long since forgotten by most citizens of the community. In the February 11, 1932 issue of his newspaper, he made this prophetic statement in his resume of church history up to the celebration of the Rev. Mr. Hartzell's Tenth Anniversary as rector of the Church of the Messiah: ". . . in this sketch and history, the Post-Dispatch is thinking not so much of the present, but looking to the future. We can well imagine the interest any one 25 or 50 years from now (43) might have in looking back to and reading this copy. And we urge many of you to file this issue for future reference."

Some facts were obtained from the Vestry Minutes of recent years. Some from the Church Register. The church bulletins were most helpful pertaining to events of the last twenty-five years, bearing various titles. Sketches of various church parishes were scanned. Some church histories by authors of note. The Diocesan **Journal** was a 'must' in checking dates of bishops and rectors.

The Rev. Mr. Whitmire was most cooperative in making Church records available.

G.Z.A.

September, 1975

# Foreword

When I asked Zack Alden to undertake the task of writing a Parish history, we both knew it would be a difficult job, primarily because there seemed to be so little material available except the Parish records, which begin with 1917, and the historical sketches done by Isaac London. Then we began to look everywhere and ask questions of those who could remember "back when". We wrote the Historiographer of the Diocese, found stacks of old bulletins, financial records and Vestry minutes, and obtained histories of St. Paul's Church, Monroe and Calvary Church, Wadesboro (where many of our early clergy served). With these, plus the Parish records and Mr. London's invaluable writings, Zack plunged into the time consuming task of carefully reading everything, searching for our history. Obviously, all could not be recorded, but what we have here is a fine blend of historical facts about this Parish, the Diocese of North Carolina and the National Church, stories of the people who labored for Christ here in Rockingham (which helps us to know them as persons), and even some Church doctrine. It is a delightful little book, due to the writing skill and willingness to take the time to do it right by Mr. Alden. We will be eternally indebted to him for this labor of love.

The two of us agree that in the process of writing her history and meeting her people we fell in love with "the grand old lady on the hill", and we know as you read this book, if you have not already done so, you will too.

Roland J. Whitmire, Jr., Rector
Church of the Messiah

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# *Prologue*

## DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### (Chronology)

### Colonial Background of the Church

Almost a century before the first clergyman arrived in the North Carolina Colony (1700), English emigrants had arrived in Virginia, accompanied by their chaplain, the Reverend Robert Hunt (1607), and founded Jamestown.

In 1611, Captain John Smith described the Church as follows: "We hung a sail to four old trees. This was our Church until we built a homely thing like a barn. Yet we had daily common Prayer, morning and evening; every Sunday two sermons; and every three months, the Holy Communion."

Robert Hunt died shortly after the settlement and was replaced by Alexander Whitaker. He received a tract of land of one hundred acres, together with a fixed salary, generally paid in tobacco.

The Colony was considered until the Revolution of 1776 as a missionary district of the Diocese of London. While other religious groups were tolerated in Virginia, they had no political rights. The Vestry was an influential force in the early life of the Church of Virginia, and the clergy, in fact, were completely at their mercy. (The Colony had become a hiding place for many second-class clergy, quite unessential in England, and here in the Colonies were far from spiritual models for their parishioners. Because of increasing political tension between the mother country and the Colonies, by 1760, the Church which represented the Crown and its authority was certain to suffer in its influence.

For forty years after the grant of Carolina to the eight Lord Proprietors (1663) by Charles II, practically nothing happened church wise. Quakers were the dominant religious sect in the Colony.

Colonial-governor Hennison Walker (1699) was instrumental in causing the Colonial Assembly to pass the first Vestry

Act, providing for election and organization of Vestries, for the establishment of parishes, building of churches, and for a poll tax for the support of Clergy. The first Anglican clergyman came to the North Carolina Colony in 1700, and remained six months. However, "We were heartened by the news (1700) that English churchmen had formed a missionary organization called the 'Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG).' Reverend John Blair was sent as missionary in the North Carolina Colony (1704)."

"None of us can ever forget Trinity Sunday (1706) when the Reverend Richard Marsden celebrated the first Holy Communion recorded in North Carolina and baptized forty-five persons. We cannot forget that thirty-three of the forty-six Anglican clergymen who have served us since 1701 have been sent by the SPG. We are proud that seven native sons of the Colony have made the arduous voyage to England to be ordained. Church work was confined to the coastal counties until 1740, when chapels and churches were built in Williamsboro, Hillsboro, Orange County and as far West as Salisbury.

"With great enthusiasm, we report that efforts of Governor William Tryon, are bearing fruit in the work of the church here in the colony. We are hampered by the fact that we have no bishop to provide for us, and that our young cannot be confirmed. It is perhaps within the ranks of the clergymen themselves that the need for 'godly counsel and supervision' of the Bishop is most sorely felt. We now have 18 **resident** Clergymen in the colony, who were either ordained prior to their arrival or have gone to England for the laying on of hands. In this year of our Lord, 1765, we can report progress from the Colony of North Carolina."

(Based on report prepared by "Committee on Religious Activities: The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission.")

## DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA
### (Chronology)

1776 — North Carolina Constitution adopted. Disestablishment of the Church of England, parent of the American Protestant Episcopal Church.

1790 — First Convention of clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina.

1794 — Election of the Reverend Charles Pettigrew as Bishop. (Never Consecrated.)

1817 — Diocese of North Carolina organized in Newbern, North Carolina. For several years under the direction of the Rt. Reverend Richard Channing Moore, Bishop of Virginia.

1823 — The Reverend John Ravenscroft elected Bishop.

1830 — Bishop Ravenscroft died.

1831 — The Reverend Levi Ives elected Bishop.

1853 — Bishop Ives resigned. The Reverend Thomas Atkinson elected Bishop.

1873 — The Reverend Theodore Benedict Lyman elected Assistant Bishop.

1881 — Bishop Atkinson died.

1893 — Bishop Lyman died. The Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire succeeded as Bishop.

1894 — **Journal** of the Diocese of North Carolina, page 88:
(from the records of the Rt. Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, D.D., Bishop)

"The third Sunday after Easter, April 15th (1894), in the Presbyterian Church in Rockingham, kindly offered for the service, I said Morning Prayer, preached, and administered the Holy Communion. In the afternoon I said Evening Prayer, and baptized an infant."1

1895-1901: Journals of the Diocese: Constant references to the fact that Bishop Cheshire made annual visitations at Rockingham. 2

1901 — **Journal** for the Convention, page 61:
(from the records of the Bishop)

"October 14, the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity: Consecrated 'The Church of the Messiah', Rockingham, assisted by the Reverend Messrs. Fetter, Green, Parkman, and Archdeacon Osborne; preached, and administered the Holy Communion. "In the same church, in the afternoon, confirmed two persons." 3

1918 — Reverend Henry Beard Delany elected Suffragan Bishop for work with Negroes.

1922 — Reverend Edwin A. Penick elected Bishop Co-

adjutor.

1932 — Bishop Cheshire died. Succeeded by the Reverend Edwin Anderson Penick, D.D.

1950 — The Reverend Richard Henry Baker elected Bishop Coadjutor.

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1. Reference furnished by Dr. Lawrence F. London, Historiographer of the Diocese of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
2. **Ibid.**
3. **Ibid.**

1959 — Bishop Penick died. The Penick Memorial Home for the elderly in Southern Pines is a noble tribute to this Servant of the Lord.

1960 — The Reverend Thomas A. Fraser elected Bishop Coadjutor.

1966 — Bishop Baker retired. The Rt. Reverend Thomas A. Fraser succeeded Bishop Baker.

1967 — The Reverend Moultrie Moore elected Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

## MISSION CLERGY

Although Rockingham was incorporated as a township in 1784, no records seem to be available about any Episcopalians who might have lived in this area for nearly three quarters of a century afterward. However, when we come to the Episcopate of the Rt. Reverend Thomas Atkinson, we begin to find references in the Journals of the Diocese of North Carolina of visitations to this area by the clergy to administer to the spiritual needs of a few members of the Church. The Bishop was the administrator of the Diocese from 1853 to 1881. Furthermore, he took refuge in Wadesboro during the Civil War and was probably the only available clergyman left in the district to carry on the work of the Church.

As already mentioned, during the early years of the Church in Rockingham, both as an unorganized Mission and an organized Mission, the majority of rectors who served the people came as missionary priests from the Parish of Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro, or from St. Paul's in Monroe. When no rector was assigned to this district, the Rev. Edwin A. Osborne, Archdeacon of the Convocation in Charlotte, usually supplied.

**Rev. Edwin Augustus Osborne:** May 6, 1837 - October 12, 1926
(Served in Rockingham, 1907-1913-1914)
Had long and fruitful life as a priest of the Church.
Born in Laurence County, Alabama, May 6, 1837. Was a Cap-

tain in the Confederate Army in 1861; a Colonel of the Fourth N. C. Regiment. Distinguished Officer. Later, admitted to the bar. Served as Clerk of Superior Court for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, for nine years before entering the ministry. Served with zeal and integrity as missionary rector. Then as assistant to Bishop Cheshire at St. Peter's in Charlotte as an Archdeacon. Supplied at many churches in his advanced years of retirement. At the Rev. Osborne's death in 1926, Bishop Cheshire remarked, ". . . he seemed the most perfect exemplification of Christian character I have ever known."

**Rev. A. H. Boyle:** Rector of Calvary Church, Wadesboro, 1877-1880.

(Mission rector in Rockingham. At the 64th Diocesan Convention recommended that the services be maintained in Rockingham.) Rev. Mr. Boyle came to North Carolina to fill the vacancy at Calvary in Wadesboro, and to serve St. Paul's in Monroe, a mission church at the time, 1877. He came from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Said to be a man "of unusual mentality, an accomplished linguist, and a fine preacher." His salary was $100.00 per year.

**Rev. Francis William Hilliard:** July 18, 1832-Died Cir. 1910. (Served the unorganized mission in Rockingham from 1893 to 1895)

Graduated from Harvard College in 1852. Came to North Carolina as tutor to wealthy children near Edenton. After ordination, served in Plymouth and in Chapel Hill. Became Chaplain to the Southern Army during the Civil War. Served parishes in New York, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and Maryland. In his late years, he founded a school for Young Ladies in Oxford, North Carolina.

**Rev. Charles Fetter:** August 6, 1845-September 26, 1908.

(Mission rector to Rockingham from Wadesboro. Twice Rector there; likewise serving the Church of the Messiah: 1896-1900; 1908-year of death.)

Born at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Taught in North Carolina and Virginia. Ordained deacon by Bishop Cheshire in St. Andrews, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1893. Ordained priest by the Bishop in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh, 1895. Served several churches in North Carolina, before moving to Kentucky, then to Southern Virginia. Returned to Calvary Church in Wadesboro in 1908. Died the same year and was buried there. Greatly beloved by his parishoners.

**Rev. James Luther Martin:** Rector at Monroe from 1905 to 1906. Went from St. Paul's to Calvary, Wadesboro: 1906 to 1907. Came from Maryland. Splendid organizer. Good priest.

(Served as visiting rector at the Church of the Messiah in Rock-

ingham for over two years. Moved on to supply at other parishes.)

**Rev. Richard R. Phelps:** Rector at St. Paul's, Monroe, 1906-1908. (Served as visiting rector at the Church of the Messiah, replacing Rev. James Martin.)

Rector from August 1906 to January 1908. Moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina. Traveled to his mission appointments via motorcycle rather than by horse and buggy.

**Rev. William H. Ball:** St. Paul's Monroe from 1910 to 1911.

(Mission rector to Rockingham while serving his regular charge in Monroe.) Served in Wadesboro before going to Monroe. A native of London. Missionary to South Africa during the Boer War. Children enjoyed him. Accepted call to Concord in 1911. Returned to Monroe for retirement. Died, November 1918. Buried in Monroe.

**Rev. Jeptha H. Swann:** Came as Rector to St. Paul's in May 1914. (Made a few visits to the Church of the Messiah in Rockingham.) Remained in this area less than a year. He then moved on to Texas.

**Rev. Thomas L. Trott:** Rector of St. Paul's, Monroe, 1915-Jan. 1918.

(Well known rector in Rockingham while serving in Monroe.) The Church of the Messiah had been an organized mission since 1900.

Good attendance; many activities.

A bachelor. Very conscientious. Felt great responsibility for his rectorial duties and each of his parishioners.

U. S. declared war on Germany, April 6, 1917.

Young men leaving for training camps. Mission left vacant in Rockingham when Mr. Trott left January 1, 1918, for High Point.

**Rev. Sanford Louis Rotter:** Rector of St. Paul's, Monroe, July 1918-January 1922.

Tireless worker and a great humanitarian.

(Mission priest to Rockingham for four years.)

Born July 12, 1873 in Petersburg, Virginia. Grew up in New York City. Attended private schools. Graduated from Columbia University, B.A. and M.A. in Latin. Taught for a while. Studied law. Passed the bar, but entered newspaper business. On editorial staff of Josephus Daniels' **Raleigh News and Observer.** Army Chaplain in World War I. Felt called to enter ministry. Enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary. Ordained and went directly to serve at St. Paul's in Monroe. Then served nearly twenty years in Virginia before being killed in an automobile wreck on December 5, 1941.

**Note:** It was Mr. Hilliard (of Monroe) who had first reported monthly services in Richmond County when there were about twelve communicants, but had been relieved from "this distant work" by the spring of 1895. Later rectors from Monroe (as we can well see from the foregoing account of rectorial duties) served at Rockingham. But from 1915 to 1922, the Mission was in the charge of Rev. Messrs. Trott and Rotter. At the end of that period the Church of the Messiah, at its own request, was cut off from Monroe, and in 1923 pledged itself for the entire support of a minister, thus becoming for the first time in its history a full-fledged parish.

## THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

## 1900 — 1975

## (A Historical Sketch)

**Early Anglican and Episcopal worship in North Carolina:**

Though few in number, it is a known fact that scattered families who were members of the Episcopal Church lived in and about the small, rural town of Rockingham in the late 18th century, and during the Civil War days. Some had drifted inland due to war conditions further east. Rumor has it that the earliest Anglican worshipers came from Wilmington. Some were descendants of families dating from Colonial days when the Church of England was still the prevailing form of worship. Many old churches of that period still stand in the Coastal areas of North Carolina: namely, Bath, Edenton, Elizabeth City, New Bern, and Wilmington. St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath, according to State records, is the oldest church in North Carolina, and one of the oldest in the nation.

The Episcopal Church, the modified American form of the Anglican Church, did not make the same inroads among the growing number of settlers as did the new off-shoots of the Christian religion springing up following the Protestant Reformation, such as the Methodist, Presbyterians, and the Baptists. Hence, for several generations, as the story goes, anyone who wasn't a Methodist in Rockingham was considered a "foreigner."

Since the Church of England was strictly regulated by the dictates of the kings of England during the 17th century, the good Anglicans, separated as they were by distances from the homeland, were not kept informed as to the rapidly changing conditions. Other complications existed also: the Colony was jointly managed by the Lords Proprietors; even more devastating, an aspirant to the priesthood had to travel to London to be ordained, because no bishops were allowed in the Colony (as a safety measure against insurgent authority).

**Episcopalians in Rockingham: Facts and Rumors:**

When one attempts to pin down facts about a town and its inhabitants after a few decades have elapsed, one finds that such facts are elusive to come by. As the late Isaac S. London confessed in an article he wrote in 1932 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Reverend Howard S. Hartzell as rector of the Church of the Messiah, he had to depend on the memory of the "old timers." His information was gleaned from the Shaws, who came in 1879; the Kings and Maurices, who came in 1900; and Mrs. A. L. McDonald, who came in 1896. But even these pioneers in the establishment of the Messiah Church had to theorize to some extent about earlier days. It seems that during the Civil War days, Bishop Atkinson, then Bishop of the whole of North Carolina, came occasionally and held service in the old Courthouse in the center of town. Some services, however, were held over the Old Everett Hardware.

**Episcopalians find a home for Worship: "The Church of the Messiah."**

According to all available records, the present structure of the Church of the Messiah is the only place of worship actually owned by members of the Episcopal Church in Rockingham. It was erected at what is now known as the corner of Greene and Lawrence streets on land deeded to the struggling little Episcopal flock in 1899, by the late Captain W. I. Everett. The (then) frame building was completed and consecrated October 14, 1900. Bishop Cheshire, one of the most active bishops to hold office in the Diocese of North Carolina, officiated at the consecration. Prior to obtaining a House of Worship of their own, Episcopalians, like the Christians of old, met in private homes, public buildings, and in some of the sanctuaries of other denominations, especially of the Presbyterians. Money at this period of history was a scarce commodity. Appomattox had not faded from the memory of most living adults. And signs of new industries and prosperity were slow in making their appearance.

**Churches in the South after the Civil War**

The growth and prosperity of churches in the South, as elsewhere, was synonymous with the economic, social, and political growth of the towns or cities in which they happened to be located. Richmond County had been created by law from part of Anson County in 1779, and the City of Rockingham was incorporated, June 2, 1784. Most of the cities, including Rockingham, following the devastating effects of the "War between the States", slowly regained their pride and prosperity as new industries were introduced. Even though agricultural, due to climate and fertile soil, the South at the turn of the century began to hear a new sound — the sound of machinery and the rolling wheels of engines towing endless streams of freightcars. Cotton was "king" and mills were turning out millions of miles of fabrics to be sent to the far corners of the globe. Successful farmers

consolidated their funds to finance their projects. Technicians from the North and England were imported to direct the willing workers, desperate for funds with which to reconstruct their own lives.

Rockingham was no exception. By the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, a dozen cotton mills had sprung up. Thousands of workers were spending their payrolls here. The economy improved. Owners, directors, bankers, lawyers, **et al,** became men of wealth. But this period of progress was sadly interrupted by World War I, and then the terrible epidemic of influenza in 1918. It was a time of mourning for friends and relatives in Rockingham.

Where was the Episcopal Church? Well, most of the churches in the South had divided from their Northern counterparts when war became inevitable in 1860. After the Civil War ended, many churches were slow and reluctant to recast their lots with their brothers north of the Mason and Dixon Line. (Some, at this late date, are still bargaining about their reunion.) The Episcopal Church, however, reunited with the Northern Branch shortly after the cessation of hostilities, and the Diocese of North Carolina reunited with the National Church in 1886, guided by the wise and scholarly Bishop Atkinson whose episcopate services lasted from 1853 until his death in 1881.

For many years, the Episcopalians had neither plan nor means of obtaining an edifice for worship until Major John D. Shaw and his family moved back to Rockingham in 1879. The Shaws moved to Rockingham in the 1860's, then after a short period of time, Major Shaw saw fit to return to his native Texas, but, when business trends took a turn for the better in the East, he returned to North Carolina, going first to Lincolnton for an interval of time. Finally, though, he came back to Richmond County to become a vibrant part of the community. A family of means and prestige, it was they who piloted the creation of the Church of the Messiah. They continued to sponsor it faithfully in the years to come, not only with money but also with leadership, teachers, and with unflagging spiritual example. The John D. Shaws, together with their relatives, the Fairleys, were many in number, but it was the daughter Easdale, who never married, that carried the torch of the Church of the Messiah until she died in 1960 at the age of ninety-six. She is buried in the old Eastside Cemetery, along with her mother, brother, and father, who during his lifetime, had been a distinguished corporation and railway attorney during the days of President Woodrow Wilson.

Miss Shaw's ancestral home, first known as the "Old Covington house," after many improvements was renamed "Golden Springs." It was half a mile southeast of town and a fine example of Colonial architecture. It played an important role in the social and spiritual life of the town. Sad to relate, it burned in 1937 when workmen were attempting to burn out a hornet's

nest. Some folks maintain that many important records of the early years of the local church were lost in the flames. With the passing of time, few will remember Easdale Shaw, the woman; but those who see the handsome reredos in the Sanctuary of the Episcopal Church will see her exquisite gift to the interior of the church. To quote Mr. Isaac London: "The magnificent Reredos presented to the Church in 1940 by the late Miss Easdale Shaw is one of the finest carvings in the State. In fact, this Reredos and the Cedar of Lebanon Altar should rate as the SHOW spots of Rockingham."

It is interesting to note that once the site for the construction of a church was secured, the ladies of the congregation almost alone carried forward the work of the Church of the Messiah, which is a replica of the church in Lincolnton, North Carolina. Actually, Miss Shaw and Mrs. McDonald (Miss Katie) went to Lincolnton themselves with their carpenters and obtained the exact dimensions of the newly constructed church there, permission having been given by the distinguished Rector, Dr. William Wetmore, and the architect. Furthermore, these two ladies never ceased to work for the interest of their church throughout their lifetime.

The whole amount of indebtedness was paid upon the completion of the church except a final payment of $300.00, which was secured by the Reverend Mr. Fetter from the Church Building Fund. Reverend Charles Fetter lived in Wadesboro and visited Rockingham once a month. It was under the fine leadership of this good man that the Church of the Messiah was begun in 1899 and completed in 1900. Reverend E. A. Osborne, Archdeacon of the Convocation of Charlotte, was also of great assistance in the work. The early members of the Church report that to know this venerable and beloved man was an inspiration and benediction of itself. It was he who performed the first confirmation in the newly built church, the subject of confirmation being none other than our present, persistent church attender, Mrs. Sallie (Long) Shaw. So finally, the dream of the faithful little band of workers became a reality. The following account of the consecration of the Church of the Messiah appeared in the **Anglo-Saxon** (the only paper published in Rockingham at the time), edited by Hon. A. J. Maxwell, issue of October 18, 1900:

North Carolina State Library

## "THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH"

### The New Episcopal Church Consecrated Sunday

"The consecration of the Episcopal church at Rockingham took place last Sunday, October 14th. Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire was assisted in the consecration service by four ministers, Reverend E. A. Osborne, of Charlotte, Arch Deacon of the Diocese of North Carolina, Reverend E. P. Green, of Ansonville, Reverend Henry C. Parkman of Monroe, and Reverend Charles Fetter of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, who has been in charge of this church and under whose ministry the church was built.

"The services were solemn and impressive. The instrument of endowment was read by Major John E. Shaw and the sentence of consecration by Reverend E. A. Osborne.

"The appropriate sermon delivered by Bishop Cheshire was from Genesis 28th chapter, 17th verse: 'This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

"The beautiful music was furnished by a large choir of young men and women of the town. A profusion of roses were placed upon the altar, and the little church looked very pretty in the bright sunshine.

"The large crowd that gathered to witness the interesting ceremony overflowed the church. A number of friends from Laurinburg, Laurel Hill, Hamlet, Sanford, Wadesboro and the surrounding country were present.

"'The Church of the Messiah' has been selected as the name for the new church."

"The Bishop announced that he expected to make arrangements for preaching in the church once a month."1

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1. Hon. A. J. Maxwell, "The Church of the Messiah," **The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,** issue of October 18, 1900, quoted in Isaac S. London, **The Post-Dispatch,** February 11, 1932 issue.

Among those who comprised the Episcopal Church congregation and assisted in its erection in 1899-1900 were:

Major and Mrs. John D. Shaw, Miss Easdale Shaw, Mr. Edwin Sully, Messrs. Charlie and Walter King, Mr. Fred Maurice and wife, Mrs. T. B. Covington, Mrs. Crawford Webb;

Mrs. S. Biggs, Mrs. Jane Napier, Mrs. Hattie Edwards, Dr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Tally Dawkins, Dr. Watt Steele, Mrs. Julia Wheliss, Mrs. Allen Beck;

Mrs. Henry Fairley, Mrs. W. N. Everett, Mr. Amasa Alden, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. McDonald.

**The Parish Church Learns of Its Ancestry**

One of the imponderables regarding a complete lack of records of Episcopalians in Richmond County, and in Rockingham, in particular, during their mission days is becoming increasingly understandable as the records of the older parishes in the Diocese become available. An overall picture of church life is now emerging.

Most of the early missions in this vicinity, such as Rockingham, Hamlet, Laurinburg, Euto, and Ansonville came under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon Osborne (later Archdeacon Hardin) of the Convocation in Charlotte. Even the two well-established parishes of Calvary in Wadesboro, and St. Paul's in Monroe, depended upon the Archdeacons to supply their spiritual needs when they were without a rector of their own. Otherwise, the rectors of Calvary and St. Paul's were assigned by the Archdeacons in charge to make regular visitations (usually once a month) to their mission charges.

Now, the missions of the eighteen and nineteen hundreds have long since risen to the status of parishood, but, proud as they are today of their meaningful destinies, they are like adopted orphans who have risen to adulthood without knowing exactly how they were begotten. But the records of the adolescent missions were, in reality, reported to the Bishop of the Diocesan Convention by the attending priest, along with his own parish information.

Bishop Cheshire's judgement was that "the missionary work has never been so well attended to in this Diocese as it was under the Archdeacons. (The missionary convocation and archdeacons were abolished in 1929 and powers were concentrated in the Diocese.) They had supplied vacant parishes and missions, visited scattered communicants, counselled young missionaries and been effective in special emergency."

Bishop Cheshire, amid his manifold episcopate duties in the Diocese of North Carolina over a period of 30 years (1893-1932), was a profound scholar of church history, and the author of several books. He often stated that the Anglican Church had no standing in the colonies after the American Revolution. The Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in Philadelphia in 1789. And the Diocese of North Caroina was formed by the Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore, Bishop of Virginia until 1823. The Diocese, however, was organized in Newbern in 1817.

Church Picture — 1932 (Frame structure built — 1900)

## The Parish Church
## 1924-1975

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**Reverend Howard S. Hartzell called as Rector**

When Rev. Sanford L. Rotter resigned from St. Paul's in Monroe, January 1, 1922, the Church of the Messiah had lost a very effective leader. But, since many new members had been added to the congregation, the vestry and laity decided that the Church had outgrown its Mission days and was ready to apply to the Bishop for advancement to parish status. The celestial omens seemed to favor such proceedings, because Howard S. Hartzell, a promising young Episcopal minister from Pennsylvania had, on June 15, 1921, married the widely known Miss Mossie Long of Rockingham, and the groom had left a very favorable impression with members of the Church. He was at the time serving the church in Smithfield when he received the call from Rockingham.

The jolly "Miss Mossie," as she was known to hundreds in her home town, gleefully told of the Rev. Mr. Hartzell's difficulty in deciding to accept the call to her beloved Rockingham. In fact, Archdeacon Bethea came to consult with him about the matter. And upon his report back to Bishop Cheshire said, "Pa is praying and Ma is packing." But he did accept, and during his twelve years at the Church of the Messiah Parish, the Church had its best growth, assisted by his energetic wife who played the organ and taught Sunday School. He preached his first sermon at his new charge on February 5, 1922. He and his wife took up their residence at the home of Mrs. Bettie Long; but he divided his time jointly with the Hamlet Mission, six miles distance. He at once began reorganizing the Rockingham Mission. (It was to be another two years before the local mission gained parish status.)

On June 15, 1922, a public reception was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Hartzell at the home of Miss Easdale Shaw. It was attended by 150 people. This was the first anniversary of the Hartzell's marriage. The congeniality of all was remarkable, for devoted members from all the town churches were present. Mrs. Hartzell had been a "pillar" of the Methodist Church while living in Rockingham. For many years she was the organist for the superb Methodist choir and large congregation. Just before the assemblage dispersed, the guests were asked to come to the front lawn. There, Mr. A. L. Ormond, pastor of the Methodist Church, presented the Hartzells, as a token of love and appreciation on the part of the Episcopal Church, a new Ford Roadster. (This selfsame Ford proved to be immune to wear and tear, for ten years later, "Miss Mossie" was still chugging about the streets of Rockingham — from the moment of the presentation of the car she became the official chauffeur for the rector of the Church of the Messiah. She was later

confirmed by Bishop Cheshire and became a devoted worker in the Episcopal Church. The Methodists could no longer call the Episcopalians "foreigners.")

Soon after the Rev. Mr. Hartzell came to the Rockingham Mission, he organized a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the charter members being A. G. Corpening, C. C. Crofton, I. S. London, W. W. and C. W. King, and B. T. Payne. The Brotherhood held public meetings each Sunday afternoon during 1922. Speakers from other churches participated in the project. For example, Mr. F. W. Bynum spoke on "Immensity of Space"; Mr. L. J. Bell explained "Relation of School to Parents," and Mr. W. L. Parsons chose to speak on "Confidence, Cause, and Leadership."

The 1922 Convention in Raleigh in the fall was a banner event for the Diocese of North Carolina, and doubly so for the members of the Mission Church in Rockingham. First, the Rev. Edwin Anderson Penick was elected Bishop Coadjutor to succeed Bishop Cheshire (only ten years later); second, The Church of the Messiah of Rockingham, Richmond County, requested the Bishop for his consent to petition the 1923 Convention for admission as a Parish in union with the Convention.

In 1923, the Rockingham Mission requested to be cut off from the Monroe foster church, and pledged themselves for the entire support of a minister. The request was then referred to the Committee of New Parishes, which proceeded to ascertain whether the Church of the Messiah conformed to the requirements for admission as set forth in Articles III and IX of the Constitution, and Canons XX and XXVII of the Diocese of North Carolina. In due time, the Committee issued an approval for admission, and in 1924, the Church of the Messiah officially became a Constitutional parish in the Diocese.

It had been 25 years since the original frame structure was built in 1899, and Rev. Mr. Hartzell felt that it would be a vast improvement to brick veneer the building rather than scrape off the paint.

**Moving of the old frame building**

The old frame building, erected in 1899-1900's, was moved 30 feet to the west before being brick veneered in order to give more space for the Sacristy. Then, too, Rev. Hartzell was looking to the future when more space would be needed for the erection of a parish house. (This moving cost $500.00.) . . . . . So he started a campaign to get the job done — the "Buy a Brick" movement. Friends from all over the State generously helped by buying a brick for one dollar. The congregation was divided into teams which vied with each other in selling the most bricks. Mrs. Lynwood Fowlkes' team seems to have been the winner. Within two months enough money had been raised to start work on the project. A building committee of C. W. King, chairman, W. R. Jones, Miss Easdale Shaw and Mrs. W. L.

Parsons, Treas., was named. Bricks were ordered, and the weathered old church began getting a face-lifting on October 8, 1924. It was a heartening story.

Hard work and even sacrifice entered into the project. Private donations, parties, sales, etc., plus $600.00 received from the Holt Fund wiped out the building fund debt, which amounted to $6,000.00. The last note for $400.00 was cancelled, January 21, 1928.

In the spring of 1924, Laurence and Greene streets, running by the church, were graded by the town and paved. In the same year, the George M. Bowes family moved to Rockingham from New Jersey and soon became invaluable assets to the church. Mr. Bowes served as Treasurer for the next ten years.

In November of the following year, the R. P. Dicks came. They too were from New Jersey, and made outstanding contributions to the Parish Church. Their children helped to strengthen the Church School. Mrs. W. N. Everett was welcomed back to the congregation in 1928. Her husband, the Honorable W. N. Everett, had died in Raleigh, February 7th of the same year while serving as Secretary of State of North Carolina. He had been serving in the State House of Representatives, but, upon the death of Col. J. Bryan Grimes, was appointed Secretary of State for North Carolina by Governor Cameron Morrison.

In 1927, Miss Wilma Biggs was sent by the Church to Philadelphia to prepare for the order of Deaconess. After her ordination, she left to do mission work in Quantanamo, Cuba.

On the night of May 9th, 1927, the Ford Coupe (presented to Rev. and Mrs. Hartzell by the Episcopal congregation 4 years previously) was robbed of its rear wheels and tires while the owners were attending the Diocesan Convention at Burlington. But without the Rector's knowedge, a delegate to the Convention took up a free-will subscription and had the wheels and tires replaced.

On May 12th, the Guild held a very successful Fashion Show in the rose garden of the H. C. Wall home. Four firms of Rockingham, two of Hamlet, and Ivey of Charlotte participated. The Guild cleared $150.00 for its treasury, with some 350 people attending.

On December 7th, 1929, the Guild placed in the aisles of the Church a beautiful new green carpet, at a cost of $140.00. The Vestry passed a resolution of thanks to the ladies for their loyal support and cooperation. The following year, the Guild installed kneeling benches in the Church.

Soon after Rev. Mr. Howard Hartzell accepted the call to the Church of the Messiah, he began exhorting his Vestry to start thinking about two acquisitions of property essential for a successful parish: a rectory and a parish house. Even if the Parish could not build in the near future, Rev. Mr. Hartzell, a

thoughtful planner, insisted that a lot be provided for each building; then build as funds became available.

The Vestry, in June 1930, had pictures taken of the Church and grounds, and Vestryman R. P. Dicks carried these to New York and consulted with Architect Upjohn, who had agreed to make preliminary drawings of a parish house. These, when made were to be submitted to the congregation, and plans put underway, looking forward to building such an addition.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Mr. Hartzell's rectorship in Rockingham was his hearty cooperation with the ministers of other denominations. And this spirit was, in turn, fully met by those ministers. Each summer, "union services" were held on Sunday nights, alternating with the other churches; and during Lenten season, he had the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist ministers to assist in his services.

During the first 32 years of the Church of the Messiah's existence, the Church School was its mainstay of unity and future growth. And two of the most faithful regular attendants upon it during all those years were Walter and Charlie King as, indeed, they were in all other phases of the Church's activities.

Eugene Payne was the School Superintendent from 1915 to his death in 1922; and Isaac S. London succeeded him and was still serving in that capacity during Mr. Hartzell's rectorship. The school at that period numbered 30 pupils and 4 teachers. The Bible Class was taught by the Rector. The Young People's Service League, with Frances Maurice as president, was organized in 1922, and met regularly every Sunday night. It contained young folks from other churches as well as its own. In addition to the Y.P.S.L., the Church School, and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, there were other organizations that should be mentioned.

The Vestry at this period was composed of the following: A. G. Corpening, Senior Warden; Charlie W. King, Junior Warden; Walter W. King, Secretary; George M. Bowes, Treasurer; other members of the Vestry were I. S. London, R. P. Dicks, and T. A. Covington. Then, in addition, there were the Guilds, the Auxiliary, the Altar Guild, and the Parish Council. In other words there was a beehive of activity and interest within the "Living Church."

**Tenth Anniversary Service for Rev. Mr. Hartzell**

On the night of February 7, 1932, the members of the Church of the Messiah met as a body, with guests from all the other churches in town, to honor the Rev. Howard S. Hartzell and to demonstrate their appreciation and love for his christian leadership and good citizenship during the twelve years of his rectorship at the Church of the Messiah in Rockingham, North

Carolina. Few live to earn such genuine approbation.

"The church was never prettier than on this occasion," wrote Mr. London, who served as Master of Ceremonies. "The altar was banked with potted plants and lilies, placed there by Mrs. C. P. Stewart and her sister, Mrs. A. G. Corpening, in memory of their mother. The altar candles seemingly were reflected in the quietude and friendliness emanating from the scores from other denominations who have always been most cordial to this small congregation." (There were at this period 30 members who were over 22 years, and 25 who were under that age.)

The Methodist pastor "called in" his service for the night, and many Presbyterians were in attendance. The Baptist pastor and his deacons sent representatives who read a set of resolutions from that Church.

The choir was augmented by Miss Elizabeth Brewer at the organ, and Wilbur Whitlock and Perry Covington, tenors. The vested choir of twenty voices came in by the front entrance, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as they marched down the long aisle, with the Chorister bearing the cross in front. Mr. Hartzell read the Scripture and the Apostles Creed — then turned the program over to the Chairman of the Vestry Committee. When the Chairman asked all those in the congregation who were present when the Church of the Messiah was consecrated, October 14, 1900, to please stand up, the following were among those who stood: Miss Easdale Shaw, Mrs. Fred Maurice, Mrs. L. C. Sharpe, Walter King, Charlie King, Mrs. Fannie Thomas, J. D. Cameron, Mrs. Alec L. McDonald, and the beloved Mrs. Lucy P. Russell, distinguished Presbyterian leader, citizen, and historiographer of Rockingham and her church, as well as the University of North Carolina. (She attained the age of 100.)

For the next hour, the congregation heard four prominent citizens of the county laud the Rector of the Church of the Messiah for his ministry and good citizenship for the past ten years. It is doubtful if any rector ever heard a warmer accolade of praise.

Mr. Fred W. Bynum, Sr., Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School, pointed out the qualities of the rector which had endeared him to all the denominations in Rockingham. He then referred to the Scripture where Moses looked heavenward and asked help from the Lord in time of a great battle, and the Lord commanded him: "Hold out your arms, and as long as your arms are extended, the battle will be with the Lord." But as the aged Moses' arms grew weary, they fell by his side. Then Aaron and Hur lifted up the arms of Moses until a great victory had been won. In this analogy, Mr. Bynum maintained that Mr. Hartzell had stood under the "arms" of the Messiah Church and of the town, while much good had been accomplished.

Mr. Roy Rosser, Superintendent of Hamlet Episcopal Church School began by quoting from the once fiery evangelist Billy Sunday, who said while preaching in Monroe: "There lies sleeping the Episcopal Church. It it ever wakes, it will be one of the most outstanding factors of righteousness the world had ever known."

Mr. Rosser then accused Mr. Bynum of pirating the subject he had planned to speak on, "the spirit of brotherhood." After a few appropriate comments, he closed by saying he found Mr. Hartzell a man as other men, but one who walked close to his Maker and a minister who wore his vestments with honor to the Church he served.

Mr. L. J. Bell, Superintendent of City and County Schools, amid eloquent phrases of some duration found Mr. Hartzell "a man in the finest sense of the word — a man who stood foursquare to all the windsthatblew." While C. B. Deane, Register of Deeds, Richmond County, termed Mr. Hartzell a man of "true chivalry, unspotted, who had kept his soul his own, a lovable and honorable man."

The Rev. Mr. Hartzell, in simple humility, accepted the compliments in the name of the Episcopal Church, but claimed no part of it for himself. Howard S. Hartzell remained at the Church in Rockingham another two years at great personal sacrifice financially. His salary was a meagre $800.00 from the Rockingham Mission, plus $400.00 from the Hamlet Mission, at one time. However records show that in 1927 his total salary totaled $2,000.00. In 1929, his salary was listed in the London Scrapbook as $2400.00, a salary paid in an odd fashion: The Church of the Messiah paid $1600.00; Hamlet paid $500.00; and the Rector received another $300.00 from the Holt fund of the Diocese.

At long last, he did accept the call to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in High Point, N. C., leaving February 9th, to assume his new rectorship. At his last Sunday night Services of the Church of the Messiah, a truly community congregation gathered in the House of Worship to its overflowing to bid him farewell. And there were many, in leaving the church, who had moist eyes as they shook the Rector's hand.

**The Rt. Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire Passes**

On December 27, 1932, the loved and widely respected Bishop Cheshire of the Diocese of North Carolina, passed away on Tuesday night, in a Charlotte hospital, at the age of 82.

For three hours the Bishop's body lay in State in St. Peter's Church, a church he had served magnificently in the early years of his ministry. His body was then moved to the Church of the Good Shepherd, in Raleigh, his home, for the funeral.

The final rites of burial were conducted in Calvary Church, Tarboro, where his distinguished father had served as rector

three quarters of a century previously. He was buried on the family lot.

Great numbers of people from all over the State were present for the simple burial services which were conducted by Bishop Edwin A. Penick, assisted by Rev. Bertram E. Brown, rector of Calvary Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hartzell, Mrs. W. N. Everett, and George S. Steele attended the funeral services in Raleigh.

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For the Parish of the Church of the Messiah, the death of Bishop Cheshire ended a cycle which had literally embraced the unorganized Mission Period, the Organized Mission Period, and the first eight highly promising years of the Parish's 'union' with the Diocese of North Carolina. He was the Symbol of Church Authority; it was he who had confirmed members of the congregation who were now fathers and mothers themselves. He had made dozens of visitations to Rockingham to officiate at weddings and rites of burials and special social occasions. He was a good earthly **Shepherd** and he knew his **Sheep.**

As the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, D.D., served an episcopate of thirty-nine years, many years beyond the lengthy episcopates of the Rt. Rev. Levi Silliman Ives, second Bishop of the Diocese, and Bishop Atkinson, the third Bishop. Bishop Ives, the indefatigable worker that he was, resigned, however, after twenty-two years due to favoring a more Roman-prone episcopacy than the Protestant Episcopalians would tolerate.

Bishop Cheshire served the Diocese in one of its greatest periods of growth. While serving as rector of St. Peter's Church in Charlotte during his youthful years, he saw the Diocese of Eastern Carolina formed in 1883 because the old Diocese had expanded beyond the powers of a single bishop to care for. Later, in 1898, while Bishop Cheshire was caring for the Diocese of North Carolina, plus the Jurisdiction of Asheville in the western part of the State, he saw that section of the Diocese become a duly organized diocese, known as the Diocese of Western Carolina with the Rt. Rev. J. M. Horner as Bishop.

The first Bishop, Rt. Rev. John Stark Ravenscroft, S.T.D., who gave leadership to the Church in difficult times and rendered a great service in extending the Kingdom of God, suffered from poor health. He died in the seventh year of his episcopate.

Bishop Atkinson, the great statesman, priest, and mission worker, served a fruitful episcopacy of twenty-eight years. During his episcopate, the number of clergy increased from 36 to 76; and the communicants, from 1778 to 5,889.

Bishop Lyman, who preceded Bishop Cheshire as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese, was in his 58th year when he became

head of the whole Diocese of North Carolina. His early years had been spent as a kind of roving missionary Bishop without 'portfolio' whose zeal and assignments took him over Europe and America. His tremendous knowledge of church affairs made him an invaluable representative at home and abroad. He served twenty years in the Diocese.

**Farewell Party for Hartzells at Wall Home**

The H. C. Wall home, the evening of February 7th, was aglow with warmth and cordiality when the Episcopal ladies gave a reception in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hartzell who, in a few days, were to take up their duties in High Point.

Among the well-known members of the Church of the Messiah who officiated for the occasion were Mrs. George M. Bowes, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Wall, Rev. and Mrs. Hartzell, Isaac S. London, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Corpening, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Covington, and George Bowes;

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ellerbe, Mrs. J. Pickett Leak, Mrs. E. Burton Bristow, Mrs. W. R. Jones, Misses Lena Payne London, Eleanor and Sairfax Dockery, Louise Corpening, Elizabeth Shaw, and Manie Leak Payne.

Mrs. W. N. Everett, Miss Heloise Smith, Walter King and Mrs. Cornelia Edwards, Miss Easdale Shaw, Mrs. Bettie Long, and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie King.

The lovely reception was one of many gestures on the part of the parishioners of the Church of the Messiah and the townspeople at large to exhibit their warm regard for the Rev. Mr. Hartzell's years of service in Rockingham.

## RECAPITULATION

### 10-Year Parish Report

1934 Communicants of the Church Of The Messiah

Mrs. E. B. Bristow
Mrs. Grover Baxley
George M. Bowes
Mrs. George M. Bowes
Miss Grace Brown Bowes
A. G. Corpening
Mrs. A. G. Corpening
Mary Corpening
Sammy L. Corpening
Louise Corpening
T. A. Covington
Mrs. T. A. Covington
Robert P. Dicks
Mrs. Robert P. Dicks
Miss Lydia Lee Dicks
Miss Jane Dicks
Miss Nancy Dicks
Bunnie (Nora) Dicks
Betsy Sairfax Dockery
Eleanor West Dockery
Frank Ellerbe
Mrs. Frank Ellerbe
Mrs. W. N. Everett
Mrs. W. N. Everett, Jr.
W. N. Everett, III
Ida Graham Hinson
Mrs. W. R. Jones
Walter R. Jones, Jr.

Walter King
Charlie King
Mrs. Charlie King
Mrs. Pickett Leak
Isaac S. London
William Everett London
Lena Payne London
Fred Maurice
Mrs. Fred Maurice
George Maurice
Mrs. George Maurice
Mrs. Alex L. McDonald
Mrs. Mial McRae
Joseph Meacham
Mrs. R. B. Napier
Bennett Napier
Dick Napier
Miss Johnsie Patterson
Miss Mildred Meacham
Miss Manie Leak Payne
Mrs. Oscar Ratliff
Miss Easdale Shaw
Miss Eloise Smith
Mrs. Russell Shaw
Miss Elizabeth Shaw
J. W. Strothers
Mrs. J. W. Strothers
Miss Maude Strothers
Miss Jeannette Strothers
William Wiley Stancell
Bill Stancell
Miss Patsy Sullivan
Mrs. L. C. Sharpe
Mrs. Henry C. Wall
Grover Wheliss
Margaret Wheliss
Nellie Wheliss

**LOST BY REMOVAL:**

B. T. Payne
A. G. Corpening, Jr.
Thomas Siegal Linton
Mrs. Sylvesta Biggs
Mrs. Robert Fetner
Risden Bennett Napier
Janie Biggs
Henry Fairley
Elsie Fairley
Mrs. Frank Ellerbe
William Henry Hart
Mrs. Jack Bennett
Miss Nancy Fairley
Miss Katherine Fairley
Miss Dorothy Fairley
Mr. C. C. Crofton
Mrs. Walter Parsons
Miss Janet Fairley
Miss Rose Biggs
Robert S. Leak
Mary Ford
Jean Ford
Jean Ford
Mrs. Mark Linneham
(Mrs.) Morgan
Miss Wilma Biggs
Miss Vesta Biggs
Marshall Family
Pettyjohn Family

**LOST BY TRANSFER:**

Mrs. Grady Garrett
Mr. Harold Howarth
Mrs. Garvel English
(Mattie Sinclair)
Mrs. B. T. Payne

**LOST BY DEATH:**

Mr. Eugene Payne
Mrs. James Dawkins
Miss Julia King
Mrs. Roberdel Pinckney Leak
Mr. Alex L. McDonald
Mrs. M. J. Napier
Mrs. Lena Everett London
Mrs. Watt Steele
Mrs. Crawford Webb
Mr. Amasa Alden

**Communicants Gained From Other Parishes**

Mr. George Bowes
Mrs. George Bowes
Mr. Robert Dicks
Mrs. Robert Dicks
Dr. William Stancell

**Gained By Confirmation: 35**

**Baptisms: 22**

**The Church of the Messiah Left without a Rector**

Upon the departure of the Rev. Mr. Hartzell for High Point in February, the Church of the Messiah was without a regular rector, and was supplied for several months by young theological students assigned by Bishop Penick. Henry Johnson, Jr., of the Virginia Theological Seminary was a visitor; also Rev. Matthew George Henry, who was destined to become the third Bishop of the Diocese of Western Carolina in 1948, and served as Bishop until 1975, dying shortly before he had planned to retire. The Rev. Thaddeus A. Cheatham, Rector of the Village Church in Pinehurst made three visits to the Rockingham Parish during the year of 1934, as well as on many other occasions. He was rector of his beloved Village Church from 1909 until his retirement in 1952.

Even though without a permanent rector, the Lay Readers, the Choir, and the Laity were determined to keep the work of the Church going "as usual," and attended all gatherings in encouraging numbers.

The Easter Services of April 1, 1934, were particularly meaningful to the Parish congregation. The day was beautiful, and Bishop Penick had come to celebrate the Sunday Communion. A goodly group of 88 members heard the Bishop's sermon, among whom were many young college students home for the holidays.

Miss Elizabeth Brewer, home for the week-end from Gaffney College, played the organ. The choir marched in from the front entrance and down the long aisle with Bill Stancell bearing the Cross. In the choir were the following: Mrs. George Bowes, director; Mrs. Pickett Leak, Mrs. Ella Napier, Nancy Dicks, Payne London, Eleanor and Sairfax Dockery, Louise Corpening, Bunny Dicks, Betty Walters, Bettie London, Cecilia Dicks, Tencey McRae, Frank Ellerbe, and Bill Stancell.

The Bishop was a dinner guest of Isaac S. London. After the meal, the Bishop drove to Southern Pines for a 3 o'clock service.

Immediately after the Easter Service, a vestry meeting was held. Those present were Walter and Charlie King, Isaac London, A. G. Corpening, George M. Bowes, Frank Ellerbe, and R. P. Dicks. The motion passed that the Bishop be asked to assign James Edwin Bethea, Deacon, to this Parish, to come here July 1st. Bob Dicks offered free use of a house for six months.

The Parish was to pay $800.00 on a year basis. He was to be elevated to the priesthood on January 1st. The Parish could then call him permanently. He could accept or decline. The Bishop had spoken most highly of Rev. and Mrs. Bethea. The Vestry were expecting Hamlet to join in with $600.00 basis salary, since they would share in his ministry in the county.

The vestry passed a motion accepting the plan, with special thanks to Mr. Dicks for his generous offer for a rent-free house for the new rector's stay in Rockingham.

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The Rev. Mr. Bethea agreed to serve the Church of the Messiah as a Deacon until he should be ordained to priesthood. On June 30th, he and Mrs. Bethea arrived in Rockingham, and for the two ensuing months took up residence in an apartment in the Ned Covington home.

On July 1st, he held his first service at 11:00 o'clock. His text was from the 9th chapter of Matthew, 13th verse: ". . . not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." The congregation was most pleased to have this fine young couple.

Mrs. Bruce Benton, wife of the Baptist minister, played the organ. The choir was supplemented by Elizabeth Shaw and Mary Blanche Palmer. The congregation numbered 44. The "mercury" stood at 97 degrees.

In the second month of Rev. Mr. Bethea's ministry at Rockingham, he was forced to enter St. Peter's hospital in Charlotte for a month's treatment of an over-active thyroid. His father, the Rev. Morrison Bethea of Reidsville, held services for his son on August 19th. The Rev. Henry Johnson, Jr. of Tarboro conducted services on September 2, 1934. An operation was deemed necessary for the young clergyman on September 7th.

Rev. Matthew George Henry of Chapel Hill returned for services in September, and Rev. Ernest M. Winborne of Mt. Airy likewise supplied for the Parish's ill rector in the same month. It was November 1st before Rev. Mr. Bethea again took up his duties in the parish. Soon he and his wife entered enthusiastically upon their duties with extra services and work in the Church School.

**The Rev. James Edwin Bethea Elevated to Full Priesthood . . .**

On April 2, 1934, the little Church of the Messiah was the setting for one of the most sacred rites of the Protestant Episcopal Church — the ordaining of James Edwin Bethea to the priesthood, with the full blessings of the Church to perform the Mystery of Baptism, to celebrate the Holy Communion, and to conduct religious services according to the laws recorded in the Prayer Book, subject to the guardianship of his Bishop of the Diocese and the congregation he serves.

In the rite of Ordination, Episcopalians believe that the laying on of hands upon the head of the ordained, by the Bishop and his fellow ministers, passes on, unbroken from the time of Christ and his Disciples, the gift of the Holy Spirit as the Lord commanded his Disciples to do.

Present for the awesome occasion were Bishop E. A.

Penick, and Dr. Wallace Rollins, Dean of the Episcopal Seminary at Alexandria, Va. In addition, there were fifteen Episcopal Clergymen to assist.

At the appointed hour of 10:45, with Mrs. Hartzell at the organ, the procession entered the Church, followed by the Bishop and clergymen. A large congregation was present, and many ministers of other congregations represented their own congregations.

The ordination sermon was delivered by Dr. Wallace Rollins, under whom the candidate had taken his three years of preparation for the priesthood. The candidate was examined by Bishop Penick. He was then presented to the Bishop by his father for the "laying on of hands" by all the clergy present. Then followed the Holy Communion, the Recessional, and the Benediction.

Many gestures of goodwill and entertainment followed throughout the day and evening for the Rev. Mr. Bethea and his wife, and for the many out-of-town guests.

* * * *

Episcopal Clergymen Participating in the Rev. Mr. Bethea Ordination:

Bishop E. A. Penick, Raleigh
Dr. Wallace Rollins, Alexandria, Va.
Rev. Morrison Bethea, Reidsville
Rev. Howard S. Hartzell, High Point
Rev. Thaddeus A. Cheatham, Pinehurst
Rev. David Yates, Tarboro
Rev. Fred Drane, Monroe
Rev. I. H. Hughes, Concord
Rev. Craighill Brown, Southern Pines
Dr. Robert Drane, Edenton
Rev. J. Q. Beckwith, Hillsboro
Rev. Thomas S. Clarkson, Smithfield
Rev. Frank Dean, Wilson
Rev. William Gordon, Spray
Rev. Claude Hobart, Cheraw
Rev. Andrew Milstead, Statesville

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The remainder of the year 1935, following the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Bethea to the priesthood, was a very satisfying one from the point of view of activities, attendance, and general interest on the part of the congregation. Bishop Penick returned in October for his regular yearly visit. In November, the Rev. Robert E. Roe of Greensboro held a Mission at the Church of the Messiah, lasting throughout the 6th, 7th, and 8th, assisted by the Rector. The Church sent $29.50 to the Thompson Orphanage in Charlotte for a Thanksgiving offering.

On December 12, 1935, a son was born to the Betheas in the Rex Hospital in Raleigh; weighed 7lbs., 7oz. Named 'Robert

Morrison' for two grandparents. Mother and child returned to Rockingham, February 13, 1936.

The opening Lenten Services for 1936 were held by Rev. Edwin Bethea in the Richmond Theatre, from 12:15 to 12:30.

The presentation of Lenten offerings was held in the Church of the Messiah, April 26th, at 3:30. A picnic followed at the rear of the Church. Rockingham's offering: $42.26: Hamlet: $29.00; Wadesboro: $21.00. Southern Pines had one teacher and 13 pupils present at the picnic.

The 120th Annual Diocesan Convention was held in Warrenton, May 12, 13, 1936. Isaac S. London drove his car on the 12th, carrying Rev. Edwin Bethea, and Messrs. Barlow and Capehart of Hamlet. Left 6 a.m. and returned at 6 p.m.

September 5, 1936, the young son of the Betheas was baptized. Sunday night, October 25th, after holding a confirmation service in Hamlet, Bishop Penick came to the Church of the Messiah for 7:30 evening service at which he confirmed seven candidates. The seven were presented to the Bishop by the Rector, Rev. Mr. Bethea.

**Rev. J. E. Bethea Resigns**

Rev. J. E. Bethea, who arrived in Rockingham, June 30, 1934, resigned on October 26, 1936, to accept a call to the church at Culpepper, Va., with about 175 communicants.

Mr. Bethea's last Sunday here was November 29th with a full church. He and his wife and year-old son left with extreme regret of the town and Church, Monday, November 30, 1936, for Culpepper, Va.

The joint vestries of Rockingham and Hamlet held two meetings in Hamlet during November. On November 15th, the Rockingham Church had its every member canvass. Budget was $1909 — $300 Forward Movement; $1609 local, of which $800 was salary, and $350 for rectory rent. The canvass resulted in $1350 in pledges.

It was agreed by both Churches that the new rector would stay in Hamlet. That meant Hamlet would pay $420 and furnish a rectory, or equivalent to $780. Rockingham would pay the rector $980.

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On February 14, 1937, a committee of A. G. Corpening, George M. Bowes, and W. King, accompanied by E. Walker Duvall of Cheraw, went in the Bowes car to the Church of the Ascension, two miles from Hagood, and 18 miles southeast of Camden, S. C., to hear Rev. George H. Harris.

Rev. George H. Harris, of the Hagood and Statesburg churches, in South Carolina, preached here, March 7th for the

Morning Service, and in Hamlet for the Evening Service. The congregations liked him very much and extended him a call. (Apparently, the Rev. Mr. Harris refused the call, for no further comment appears in the records.)

**1937 — A Year of Change and Adjustment**

The departure of the Betheas brought both sadness and regret. The Church family had opened their hearts to them in their sorrows, and taken pride in their successes. In two and one half years they had come and gone. Now, a replacement was to be found.

From November 30, 1936, until June 1, 1937, the Church of the Messiah was again served by various clergymen. Rev. Mr. Cheatham of Pinehurst held services May 2nd. Beginning June 6th, Rev. Mr. Robert M. Man, senior at the Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Va., came to hold regular services during the summer months, although the Church School would not be opened until September. But church services were held every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and at 11:00 at Hamlet. The congregation was particularly taken with the young minister's graciousness and affability.

On April 4th, Bishop Penick was given a new Buick on his birthday by admiring members of the Diocese. April 30th, the District Auxiliary met in the Episcopal Church. Lunch was served in the basement of the Methodist Church. Anson, Moore and Richmond Counties were represented. Fifty-five ladies were present.

In June, the church roof and steeple were covered with John-Manville asbestos shingles at a cost of $550.00.

Earlier in the year, the Episcopal Church was the recipient of 50 new Prayer Books, the gift of the New York Bible Society. In July, Student Minister, Robert Man, swapped service with Rev. Mr. Pulley of Wadesboro so that Communion could be given here. Mr. Man left August 30th to complete his Senior year in theology. Church School was resumed Sept. 12, 1937. Twenty-five were present.

The ante-bellum home of Miss Easdale Shaw burned October 19, 1937. It was bought by Major John Shaw in 1890. It was insured for $10,000.00.

October 14, 1937, Elizabeth Shaw and Foy Barwick were married at the Church of the Messiah at 8:10 p.m. Rev. Howard Hartzell returned to Rockingham to officiate at the beautiful ceremony.

The Y. P. S. L. was organized in October. Mrs. T. C. Gutherie, Jr. was in charge. Members had a wiener roast at the Dockery Club, December 3rd.

**New Minister Arrives**

Rev. Edwin Hurst, the new rector at the Church of the Messiah, and his family came from Erwin, September 2, 1937. He would reside in Hamlet. The Rev. Mr. Hurst and Mrs. Hurst had three children: Edwin W. Jr., 19, a student at the University; Mary Harriett, 16; and George Stackly 14. The new Rector held his first service September 5th.

The annual Hallowe'en party was held at the church at 6:00 p.m., November 1st. Barbara Maurice won first prize for best costume; Charles King, Jr., won second prize. Each received a small New Testament. The congregation "pounded" Rev. E. W. Hurst and family with groceries.

A Union Service was held at the Methodist Church, the night of December 5th, to welcome Rev. Edwin Hurst who came here September 2nd. Brief talks were made by Rev. J. F. Herbert of the M. E. Church; Dr. A. A. Walker of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Bruce Benton of the Baptist Church. Fifteen Civitans attended in a body. Seats were reserved for them.

The annual Christmas Tree at the Church, the night of 23rd, was a joyous occasion. Mrs. Lydia Love was at the piano. Walter Jones, Jr., was Santa Claus. Forty-eight people attended. The Candle-light Christmas Eve Communion service was held at 11:30 p.m. Afterward, the young folks went caroling with Mrs. T. C. Gutherie.

**New Rector's Health Shattered**

From September 2, 1937, to April 15th of 1938, the Church activities had moved along smoothly. The Rev. Mr. Hurst had been warmly received as the new rector, and he was residing in Hamlet, according to the new agreement with the congregation there. Then came Good Friday, on April 15th, and the tragic nervous breakdown of the Rector, beginning during the three-hour service. His condition worsened and he was placed in the Hamlet Hospital.

Mr. Robert M. Man was wired, and he came from Alexandria, Va., to hold the Easter Service. The Choir of twenty gladdened the hearts of the sixty-four worshipers in attendance. After the 10:45 a.m. service in Rockingham, Mr. Man conducted an 11:45 service in Hamlet.

The Sunday following Easter, the Rev. Edwin Bethea, the previous rector to the Church of the Messiah, who happened to be visiting in Reidsville, came to Rockingham for services here and in Hamlet.

Bishop Penick preached at 8:00 p.m., May 1, 1938. The congregation numbered 125. The Vestry requested that the Bishop assign Rev. Mr. Man to the Rockingham church, pending his ordination to the dioconate.

The Bishop had Rev. Mr. Hurst moved from Hamlet Hos-

pital to the State Hospital in Morganton for more effective treatment.

The Rev. Mr. Man returned to the Church of the Messiah, June 19, 1938. He preached his first sermon as official Deacon-in-Charge of the Church. He was by this time quite well-known to his congregation.

By August 14th, the Bishop had assigned the Rockingham deacon still another mission obligation — that of a Sunday-night, eight o'clock service at the reopened church of St. David at Laurinburg. There were 48 persons present for the first night service.

The work and popularity of the Rev. Mr. Man increased tremendously. He became associated with civic and inter-denominational activities as well as boosting the various avenues of services within his own parish.

On November 8, 1938, Rev. Robert Man was married to Miss Edna Lee Henley at West Durham at a five o'clock service. The young couple spent a week following the marriage festivities at the Henry C. Wall clubhouse, five miles south of Rockingham.

At his January 1, 1939 visit to the local parish, Bishop Penick confirmed young Kathryn McRae, granddaughter of "Miss" Katie McDonald, a charter member of the Church of the Messiah.

February 9, 1939, Dr. W. W. Stancell died in the Hamlet Hospital from burns suffered when a lighted cigarette set fire to his mattress.

On February 26, Bishop Penick visited the Church for a 4:00 p.m. service and preached to a congregation of 68. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Bishop dedicated a handsome new Pulpit, presented to the Church by Walter and Charlie King, in memory of their parents and three sisters.

**Robert Martin Man Ordained to the Priesthood**

The Rev. Mr. Man was ordained to the priesthood in the Church of the Messiah, May 29, 1939. The Service started at 11:00 a.m. with the full choir of 14, together with the Bishop, Rev. Mr. Man, and six visiting clergymen coming down the aisle with the Processional. Dr. Charles Lowry, Ph.D., of the Alexandria Seminary, preached the sermon. He then "charged" the 27-year-old minister. After the various phases of the service, Communion was held. The entire attendance numbered 102 people. After the ceremony, the visitors were taken to the Rockingham Hotel for lunch.

The visiting clergymen were as follows:

Bishop Edwin A. Penick — Raleigh
Rev. John A. Wright, Christ Church — Raleigh
Rev. Thaddeus A. Cheatham — Pinehurst

Rev. Willis G. Clark, St. Peter's — Charlotte
Rev. Craighill Brown — Wadesboro,
Dr. Charles Lowry — Alexandria Seminary

A large number of inter-denominational clergymen and guests participated in the joyous occasion.

Rev. Mr. Man celebrated his first Communion service, June 4th. Twice during the summer of 1939, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Man went to Camp Penick, Vade Mecum, to visit and assist in the work there.

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When Adolph Hitler began his mad campaign in Europe, September 1, 1939, seeking world domination, the greatest war in the annals of history soon engulfed nearly every nation of the Planet Earth. The U.S.A., reluctant to get involved, by 1941, was fighting a global war on two fronts. Not until 1945 did the tumult finally cease. And the little town of Rockingham and its people had borne their share of the conflict.

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The Church on September 10, 1939, voted to buy from HOLC the I. S. London home, adjoining the church property on the north. This 80 x 165 foot lot was bought by London from John L. Everett in 1919. HOLC took it over May 6, 1939.

The papers were signed by the Vestry, September 11, 1939. The Church was to pay $4,000 for the property, with $400 cash down-payment, with the remaining $3600 to be paid over a period of 20 years at $28.48 a month. The deed was signed September 28, 1939, by seven vestrymen — A. G. Corpening, Charlie W. King, Walter King, George Bowes, Walter R. Jones, Jr., Grover Wheliss and Isaac London.

Payne London and Edwin William Hurst, Jr. were married November 30, 1939. Many friends and relatives were present for the simple but lovely ceremony.

Saturday, January 13, Bishop Penick came from Raleigh by train and met with the Vestry at Cope's Inn. He gave a report on Diocesan funds. He preached at the Sunday morning service. The choir was accompanied by Mrs. William Love at the organ. The Bishop confirmed Josephine Henry and Isaac London, Jr.

The ladies of the Church instituted a series of four semi-monthly duplicate bridge games for funds for the new organ.

Mrs. W. N. Everett, Sr., died of a heart attack at the home of Mrs. B. F. Palmer. She was born August 8, 1886 and died February 28, 1940. Rev. Howard Hartzell was in charge of the funeral, assisted by Rev. Mr. Man. (First use of the new organ.) Pall-bearers were William and Henry Dockery, Marl-

borough Pegues, Ozmer Henry, Nathan and Nash LeGrand.

Through the efforts of the Guild and other ladies of the Church, under the presidency of Mrs. Henry C. Wall, and the generous cooperation of friends, the Church, on February 29, 1940, installed a new organ, costing $1500. Of the amount $900 was paid in cash. (Model D. Hammond.)

Mrs. Mial McRae the former Kathryn McDonald, born 1897, died at 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 24th, as a result of an auto accident. Funeral services were held at the Church on Easter Monday, the 25th. Burial was at 3:00 p.m. in Eastside Cemetery.

Isaac S. London resigned as superintendent of the Church School, March 12, 1939. Rev. Robert Man appointed Warren B. Bezanson, a teacher in the high school, to replace Mr. London, who had served faithfully in that capacity since the death of Eugene Gray Payne in 1920. In the 19 years of Mr. London's term of office, he missed Church School only 10 times.

After the Easter 9, 1939 service, Rev. Mr. Man presented Miss Easdale Shaw and Miss Eloise Smith a gift in appreciation of their many years of service to their church. The two ladies were then making their permanent homes in Charlotte.

**The 123rd Annual Diocesan Convention**

The 123rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina was held with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, May 18th and 19th, 1939. It was scheduled to meet the following year with St. Peter's in Charlotte. The convention voted down the proposal to allow women to be eligible for the Vestry. The 1940 Budget was set at $62,591. A $1,000 sum was apportioned for the expenses of the **North Carolina Churchman** on the basis of 4,000 free copies to parishioners.

Bishop Edwin A. Penick was authorized to name a commission on "faith and order" to study Christian unity, especially of Episcopalians and Presbyterians, as contemplated in national "conversations" between the two sects.

Attending from Rockingham were Rev. Robert Man, George Bowes, and A. G. Corpening.

Born at 10 p.m., May 3, 1940, in St. Peter's Hospital, Charlotte, a 4-pound son to Rev. and Mrs. Robert Man. Rev. Mr. Man had been rector in Rockingham since June 19 1938.

**Passing Events in the Life of the Parish**

During the months of July and August of 1940, the handsome reredos, Bishop's chair, and credence table donated by Miss Easdale Shaw in memory of her parents were installed. Later in the year, November 3rd, these memorials were dedicat-

ed by Bishop Penick, Rev. Mr. Hartzell (now a rector in High Point), and Rev. Mr. Man, rector of the Church.

On his visit to the Church of the Messiah, February 2, 1941, Bishop Penick officiated at the 10:00 a.m. Communion Service and confirmed the following new communicants: Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Deal, young Marx Deal, Mrs. J. M. Osteen, Miss Helen Long, and Grover Baxley, Jr.

On April 30, 1941, Helen Marshall Long of Rockingham and David Follett of Adams, Massachusetts, were married in a lovely afternoon ceremony. Rev. Mr. Hartzell, brother-in-law of the bride, performed the rites, assisted by Rev. Robert Man. The Church was filled to over-flowing.

The women of the Church raised enough money to install three wrought iron antique gold lanterns in the nave of the church, and also a pulpit lamp during the month of May, 1941. The cost amounted to over a $150.00.

Rev. Tommie Lee Trott died, July 26, 1941, in Statesville at the age of 65. He was fondly remembered here due to his serving of the Church of the Messiah from 1915 to 1918.

The Civitan Club, December 4, 1941, voted the 1941 Citizenship Cup to Rev. Robert Man. During the following months, due to the scarcity of rationed gasoline and tires, Rev. Man used a bicycle to make his tours about the countryside. On May of 1942, he reported to Fort Bragg and passed the physical exam for army chaplain. Then on June 11, 1942, much to the regret of the members of the Parish, he was ordered to report to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, as 1st Lieutenant. When he left for overseas, he weighed 230 pounds.

**Reverend Robert Williamson Turner, Jr., New Rector**

The Rev. Mr. Turner, a graduate of Sewanee, was born in Tennessee, April 26, 1916. He was raised to the Diaconate by Bishop Penick, January 24, 1943. He arrived in Rockingham, February 1, 1943, to serve as a replacement for Rev. Robert Man, now serving over seas. His first service was held February 7th. Mrs. Helen Cox Snead was the organist.

On the night of Saturday, April 10th, 125 soldiers slept on the church floor and benches due to an overflow at the U.S.O. Building. Shortly afterward, Rev. Mr. Turner posted placards about town, welcoming soldiers to all services at the Church of the Messiah. At the May 23rd Sunday services, eighteen soldiers were in attendance.

Mrs. Alec L. McDonald, charter member of the Parish, died July 26, 1944. She was the former Miss Katie McMackin. She was 79 years old.

Rev. Robert Turner went to Tennessee, January 30th, 1944, for two weeks, and on February 6th, Stackley Hurst, of Hamlet,

read the service. He was a sophomore at the university. After graduation, he planned to study for the ministry.

Bettie Louise London and Ensign Baxter B. Slaughter, Jr., were married at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 2, 1944, in the Methodist Church by Rev. B. B. Slaughter, father of the groom, and Rev. Robert Turner.

The Presiding Bishop wired all churches, Friday, April 28, 1944, to be on alert for the Western European invasion "D", and when it came, to open churches for prayer.

Rev. J. Edwin Bethea was awarded the degree of 'Doctor of Divinity,' April 29, 1944, at Washington and Lee University. He was rector of the Church of the Messiah from June 30, 1934 to October 26, 1936. He left to assume a rectorship at Culpepper, Virginia. He later served at Lexington, Va.

Bishop Penick visited the Parish on Good Friday, March 30, 1945. He conducted a 11:00 a.m. service, assisted by Rev. Mr. Turner. There were 62 persons in the congregation. During the service, the Bishop confirmed the following members as new communicants in the Church: William Edward and Mildred Harrison, Mrs. Wilton Fielder and Wilton, Jr. (15), Kayway Nicolson (15), and Pickett Leak, Jr. (13), Mrs. J. M. Nicolson by handshake, since she had previously been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church before being received into the Episcopal Church.

Rev. Robert W. Turner, at Bishop Penick's request, gave up his rectorship at the Church of the Messiah to serve as rector at Mt. Airy and Walnut Cove. He would also be the Business Manager of Vade Mecum. He had been at the Rockingham Parish since February 1, 1943. During his 26 months, the Church had grown, the rectory had been painted and improved, and the entire debt of $2400 on the rectory paid. A Baptistry had been built in the south side of the church and not a penny of debt on the property remained. Rev. Mr. Turner left the Parish, April 4, 1945, to assume his new duties.

During the summer months of 1945, Stackley Hurst, student and lay-reader, and Rev. Thaddeus Cheatham held services on numerous occasions.

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With the formal surrender of Japan, September 1, 1945, President Harry Truman proclaimed Sunday, September 2, 1945 as V-J Day for the United States of America.

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Captain Robert Man, rector of the Church of the Messiah from 1938 to 1942, returned to his former parish, which he relinquished upon becoming an army Chaplain, for a visit and held services on December 30, 1945. A large congre-

gation was in attendance to hear him and to convey their good wishes. He began work as rector of Christ Church, Covington, La., January 10, 1946.

**Reverend Ralph A. Bridges — New Rector**

Since the departure of Rev. Mr. Turner as rector of the Parish, April 4, 1945, the Church had been without a regular minister for nearly a year. During the interim, Student Lay-Reader, Stackley Hurst of Hamlet, Rev. Thaddeus A. Cheatham of Pinehurst, Rev. Mr. Hobart of Cheraw, and Lay-Reader Arthur C. Cunday had supplied the needs of the Church of the Messiah.

Although the Vestry had met on November 7, 1945, to consider calling Captain Alfred Bridges and again on January 14, 1946, it was not until their meeting with Rev. Mr. Bridges on February 19, 1946, that they called him as rector and he accepted the call.

Rev. Ralph A. Bridges was born near Mt. Gilead, August 27, 1911. He attended Catawba College, then pursued his preparation for the ministry at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. He was ordained to the Diaconate, June 1936. He then served 18 months at two missions near Burlington. In January of 1938, he went to serve the Church in Erwin. When America became engaged in the conflict with Japan, he joined the Navy as Chaplain in November 1942, and served until August 22, 1945, fifteen months of which time was spent in the Pacific Group islands. Back in the States and discharged, he was ready to resume the duties of a parish rector. Captain Bridges had married Francis Patricia Jones of Montgomery, Alabama, October 22, 1943.

Rev. Mr. Bridges conducted his first service in Rockingham, March 3, 1946. A full choir and a large congregation greeted the new minister. Thus began a happy relationship between the congregation and its rector which lasted throughout the three years that he remained in Rockingham.

Since the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches were gaining new ministers simultaneously, on Sunday, March 17th, at a 7:30 p.m. service, the Baptist Church played host to both clergymen. All churches took part in welcoming Rev. Jennings Reid to the Presbyterian pastorate, and Rev. Ralph Bridges as rector to the Church of the Messiah.

Mrs. John Chase of Florence, on May 5, 1946, gave a lovely silver bowl for the Baptismal font, in memory of her sister, Mrs. A. L. (Katie) McDonald, who died July 26, 1944.

Bishop Penick visited the Episcopal Church, Sunday, October 20, 1946. He confirmed a class of seven: Mrs. Hill Martin, Ann McCullough Nicolson, Margaret Sinclair Baxley, Franklin Jefferson Garrett, Eugene Phillips Bishop, Robert Edward Leak, and John Perry Fielder.

Isaac Spencer London, Jr., born August 5, 1926, died in Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville, N. C., January 20, 1947. Funeral services were conducted here in the Episcopal Church, Wednesday the 22nd, by Rev. Ralph Bridges. Burial was in the Eastside Cemetery. His mother, Lena Everett London, born August 10, 1892, died January 1930, was moved from Everett little cemetery January 29, 1947, and reinterred by her son Issac. Benediction at the grave was given by Rev. Mr. Bridges at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 30, 1947. Only the family was present.

Twenty cases of polio were reported in Richmond County after July 1, 1947, whereupon the County Health Board closed schools after Wednesday, September 17th. Church strvices and movies barred children under sixteen. Ban was lifted and the schools re-opened after being closed twelve school days.

The Men's Club, which had been meeting for a monthly supper the past year, met at Blewett Falls, April 20, 1948. Watt Jones was elected leader for the new year, succeeding N. R. McElveen. Rev. Ralph Bridges informed the group that he had accepted the call to the Church of the Holy Comforter in New Orleans, for June 1st. He preached his first sermon here, March 3, 1946.

Wednesday, May 26, a reception was held in the Community Building for Rev. Mr. Bridges and his wife. The following night he was the speaker at the Civitan Club. On Sunday, the departing Rector held his last service with 65 members of the congregation present. Tuesday, June 1, 1948, the Bridges family left for New Orleans. The Parish had lost a very fine man and minister.

Mr. Malcolm Bowes died of a heart attack, Thursday, June 17, 1948. His funeral was held in the Church of the Messiah, the church he had served most faithfully, even beyond the call of duty since he had arrived in Rockingham in 1924 from Pennsylvania. Almost consistently he had served as treasurer of the Parish, and in any other capacity where his great and practical experience could be of use. He was truly a staunch 'pillar' of the Church.

Beginning in the month of June, with the departure of Rev. Mr. Bridges for a rectorship in New Orleans, Stackley Hurst was again called in to hold services in the Parish. Rev. P. Robert Baird from Sanford also supplied, and Stark Dillard, University Student, conducted three services at intervals.

When Bishop Penick made his visit to the Parish, January 30, 1949, he agreed to the Church of the Messiah's calling Stackley Hurst to serve the Church upon his graduation in June. At a supper held in the Community Building earlier in the month, the congregation had unanimously agreed to call Stackley Hurst, who had been associated with tht Church since he was a youngster.

According to the wishes of the Parish, Bishop Penick ordained Mr. Hurst to the Diaconate, June 28, 1949, at an impressive service. The young minister was warmly received. Rev. Mr. Hurst was born in Ingold, Sampson County, S. C., July 8, 1923. His father served briefly in the Parish in 1937. He received his B. A. at the University, June 10, 1946. Then he attended the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., for a year. In 1947, he entered the Philadelphia Divinity School, graduating, June 1949. He held his first official service July 3rd.

Mrs. Henry Fairley, a sister of Miss Easdale Shaw and one of the first members of the organized Mission in 1900, died in Charlotte, April 12, 1949. She was buried in Laurinburg.

On his visit to the Parish, January 22, 1950, the Bishop preached to a congregation of 110. During the service, there were eight members of the Church confirmed: Mr. and Mrs. W. Alex Snead, and son, Alex, Jr.; Mrs. F. W. Symmes, Edwin B. Bristow, Jr., Williard Spencer Taylor, Jr.; Timothy Nugent Taylor, and Mrs. James Cameron.

Rev. Stackley Hurst was ordained to the priesthood at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 1, 1950. Bishop Penick was in charge of the service. The Very Reverend Frank Dean Gifford, of Philadelphia Divinity School, preached the sermon. Ten ministers of the Diocese took part in the impressive Act of Ordination. A large congregation was in attendance. Lunch was served in the Parish House for relatives and visiting guests.

In the fall of the same year of his ordination to the priesthood, Stackley Hurst was asked by Bishop Penick to assume the managership of the Vade Mecum property, and to serve the Missions of Walnut Cove, Germantown, and Mayodan. Although he had supplied at the Rockingham Parish on numerous occasions, he had been the permanent rector here only about sixteen months. He left October 17, 1950.

A special convention of the Diocese of North Carolina met in Raleigh, September 14, 1950, and on the seventh ballot, elected Rev. Richard Henry Baker of Baltimore, aged 53, Bishop Coadjutor. He would be in the order of succession to Diocesan Bishop in the event that the Rt. Rev. Edwin Penick's seat became vacant, for the Bishop was now in his 64th year of age, and 28th year as a Bishop. (Rev. Mr. Hurst and Calhoun Pruitt went as delegates for the Church of the Messiah in Rockingham.)

The Post-Dispatch printed a history of Rockingham, North Carolina, September 27, 1950 as a result of the presentation by the British Counsul of a Plaque for the Destroyer Rockingham. Exercises were held here, September 21, 1950, honoring the occasion. (The birthday of Richmond County is February 1, 1779. The official birthday of the town of Rockingham happens to be April 19, 1784. Lots were bought April 1, 1785.)

The Vestry had met, September 26th, to consider a new

rector. Reports on Rev. C. E. B. Robinson of York, South Carolina, were most favorable. In fact, Rev. and Mrs. Robinson were invited to a reception at 4:00 p.m. on October 16th, in order that a number of the members of the congregation might meet with them and get acquainted. The church members were delighted with the Robinsons, and Rev. Mr. Robinson was called as Rector to start April 1, 1951.

For years the members of the Church of the Messiah had discussed the need and practicality of constructing a parish house, but no positive action had been taken. At the same meeting of the Church, when Rev. Mr. Robinson was called as Rector, a committee of seven was named to expedite a building program immediately. The Parish House Building Committee was as follows:

J. M. Nicolson, Chairman — Mrs. Lynwood Fowlkes
John R. McCracken — Charles King
Wm. Edward Harrison — Calhoun Pruitt
Mrs. Henry C. Wall

The Vestry and Building Committee met at Cope's Inn, January 12, 1951, and approved the plans for the new Parish House on the north side of the church. The total cost was to be about $25,000. The Church had $10,000 cash on hand. A note would be taken out on one of the local banks for the remaining $15,000; and R. C. Price was chosen to do the work. The lot was actually staked off, January 17th, and on the 23rd, a machine excavated for the foundation. It also uprooted the huge oak tree, long a land mark of majestic beauty.

At the Confirmation Service, Thursday, October 26, 1950, Bishop Penick confirmed H. B. Garden, young John Garden, James Moss, and Miss Jane Doster.

An interval of six months passed before the services of a regular rector were secured for the Parish following the departure of Rev. Stackley Hurst. Beginning December 24, 1950, Rev. Francis Osborne held services in the Church each 1st Sunday, until the Rev. C. E. B. Robinson arrived April 1 1951, to assume the full-time rectorship of the Church of the Messiah. Edwin Hurst served as Lay-Reader at the night services during this intervening period.

On March 10, 1951, the vestrymen of the Church signed for a $9,000 note with the Farmers Bank, and a similar one with the Richmond Bank ($18,000), in financing the construction of the new Parish House. The signers were as follows: A. G. Corpening, John McCracken, Pickett Leak, W. E. Harrison, Jr., Isaac London, Marion Miller, George Browder.

**Reverend Mr. Robinson New Rector 1951:**

Rev. C. Earle Robinson and his wife arrived in the Parish on March 29, 1951, and his first service as the Rector was on

April 1st. He was born January 30, 1890, at Coudersport, Penn. In 1918, he married Susan Chase of Waterford, N. Y. He was the father of three children — Gilbert, head of the Ceramic Department at Clemson; Peter, who would graduate, May 1951, at General Theological Seminary, and Mrs. S. K. (Mary Anne) Lowry, Jr., of York.

Bishop Richard Baker, now the new Bishop Coadjutor since January 1951, held morning services at the Parish Church on Sunday, April 22nd, preached the sermon, and formally installed the new Rector. Standing with Rev. Mr. Robinson were Senior Warden, A. G. Corpening, and Pickett Leak.

A Vestry election was held at noon, Sunday, April 29, 1951. Twenty-five voted in secret ballot. The nominees were as follows: 3-year terms: Calhoun Pruitt and J. M. Nicolson; 2-year terms: Pickett Leak and W. R. Jones, Jr.; 1-year term: H. B. Garden and W. E. Harrison, Jr.

The list of men over 21 years eligible for the vestry; G. Calhoun Pruitt, James M. Nicolson, Wm. Ed Harrison, Jr., A. G. Corpening, Hugh L. Deal, Walter R. Jones, Jr., Wm. Walter King, Charles W. King, J. Pickett Leak, Isaac S. London, J. Grover Wheliss, Edwin W. Hurst, Jr., Walter F. Long, III, John McCracken, A. Alex Snead, George Browder, Marion Miller, James Moss, and H. B. Garden.

The memberships of Mr. and Mrs. Riggs Goodman from Rock Hill, and Mrs. Catherine Johnson from Raleigh were transferred to this Church, May 13, 1951.

**Reverend Mr. Robinson New Rector: April 1, 1951 (continued)**

The Reverend Mr. Robinson proved to be a meticulous organizer. His years of service in the Ministry had made him a wise and scholarly judge of human nature. His sincerity and persistence in congregational growth, both spiritually and numerically, soon became evident to his new parishioners. In addition, he was a proficient musician, the clarinet being his forte. A musical career had been his early choice in life before he felt the urge to enter the ministry. He often accompanied the Choir in the many classical selections which he and Mrs. Helen Snead arranged for special programs.

One of Rev. Earl Robinson's first endeavors was the publication of his "Messiah Messenger", a combination news-letter, church-bulletin, and scholarly excerpts from church documents and current publications which represented his wide field of reading material. He sought diligently to inform his congregation of their church heritage.

On the occasions when the Services of the Messiah Parish were broadcast on radio and TV, he made the listeners' time worthwhile. And he carefully screened good reading matter and

broadcasts which he might recommend to the youngsters in the Church School.

The Bazaar of November 26, 1952, was a most outstanding example of congregational cooperation on the part of young and old. It was sponsored by the ladies of the Church, but everybody participated to the fullest in making it the success that it was. The final proceeds from the undertaking amounted to $430.00. An additional sum of $70.00, raised from bridge parties, made it possible for the women of the Parish to give $500.00 to the Building Fund for the Parish House.

In his 1952 Yearly Report, published February 1, 1953, the Rector was most pleased with the progress made in the pre-school department and with the leaders and teachers. His praises for the Choir, and the Altar Committee, the Junior-Choir, the Acolytes and Lay-Readers were jubilant. The Women's Committee, Auxiliary "treasury report" was most impressive. Beginning the year with a balance of $327.35, by ingenious devices, their yearly total was $1,983.14 of which $1,150.00 was contributed to the Building Committee to reduce the Parish House debt.

Mr. John Papson by his will left to this Parish $127.50. With this money the Vestry procured a suitable cover for the Font. The remainder was applied to the Parish House indebtedness.

Of the $18,000.00 borrowed from the Farmers Bank and the Richmond Bank by the Vestry to finance the construction of the Parish House, $5,514.82 had been paid off by the end of the year 1952. The funds had been produced by various means: Friends outside the Church; Memorials; the Walter King, John Papson, Lucy Parsons Estates; regular installments by members of the congregation; building and loan interests; the St. Anne's and St. Clair's Auxiliary; the Dick Chapman lecture (Sponsored by the men); several outright gifts, sometimes anonymous.

The St. Anne's Auxiliary members, working individually at doing their own thing, turned in $250.00 to be applied to the Church debt. This was May 24, 1953.

**Some Progress Reports:**

A. At the Parish Meeting, December 2, 1953 Edwin W. Hurst and Walter F. Long were elected to the Vestry for terms of three years to succeed J. Pickett Leak and Walter R. Jones, whose terms would expire at the end of the year (1953).

B. The Vestry met January 5, 1954, at the home of E. W. Hurst, Jr. The following officers were elected: Senior Warden, James Nicolson; Junior Warden, Calhoun Pruitt; Secretary, Alex Snead; Treasurer, Walter F. Long. The pledges for the 1954 expenses fell short

$700.00 of the budget of $6,787.35 adopted for the year, even though Mr. Hurst had done an excellent job in conducting the Every Member Canvas for Church Funds.

February 14, 1954, the "Messiah Messenger" reported as follows regarding the Parish House indebtedness: a reduction of Church debt by $1,745.79. The source of funds for such purposes were derived from the ladies of the Church; additional memorial gifts: for Grover Wheliss, Mildred Harrison, and Ardistide Kalevas. Individual contributions of Church members made up the rest.

According to the will of the late W. B. Cole, the Church of the Messiah received $2,000. The Vestry decided to invest this sum in a trust fund in his name, the income to be used for the Parish.

C. The Reverend Mr. Jeffress, Diocesan Director of Religious Education, upon his visit to the Church of the Messiah, October 11, 1954, met with the Sunday School teachers, and with Mr. Edwin Hurst, superintendent of the Church School. He praised all the persons connected with this department. He maintained that the system used and the efficiency of the instructors were by far the best in the whole Diocese.

Through the medium of "The Messiah Messenger", for the First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 1954, the Vestry expressed a note of thanks and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Nicolson for their gift of ten shares of stock in the Union Oil Company of California. This monetary gift was added to the Trust Fund of the Church.

At this half-way period of Rev. C. E. B. Robinson's rectorship of the Church of the Messiah (1951-1958), this cryptic comment appeared in "The Messiah Messenger": "As I understand the history of the Church of the Messiah, the Church became a parish in 1924, but in 1929, it threw in the sponge and went in with Hamlet, Laurinburg and the Diocese, jealously keeping the name of a Parish, though acting as a Mission. That has been the state of affairs until about four years ago. Then we began acting like a Parish. It looks like we're going to make it this time."

The Church of the Messiah Trust Fund was enriched, January 9, 1955, by a gift of ten shares of Pacific Mills stock by Mrs. Elizabeth Wall.

The two newly elected members of the Vestry at their January meeting were Melton Michel Georgion and Walter Raleigh Jones. The officers were as follows: Senior Warden, Edwin

William Hurst; Junior Warden, Walter Franklin Long; Secretary, Melton Michel Georgion; Treasurer, William Watson Bishop.

The rector reported only a one-thousand dollar reduction in the Church debt during the year of 1954. Of this amount $600 was raised by the women of the Church.

The first three quarters of the Parish year 1955 were marked by three phases of activity which called for extra spotlighting:

(1) The inspiring Church Institute presented by the Department of Christian Education of the Diocese of North Carolina, April 23 and 24. The following distinguished Christian leaders participated in presenting various topics: The Rev. Gray Temple, rector of St. Peter's, Charlotte, Chairman; Rev. C. E. B. Robinson, rector of the Church of the Messiah, Rockingham, Diocesan director of Religious Education; Mr. E. M. Holt, of Cone Mills, Laymen's work; Mrs. E. G. Peoples, Provincial President of the Woman's Auxiliary; Mrs. John Haney, Adult Advisor to our Young People. The Institute was held for the benefit of Messiah Church, All Saints, and St. David's.

(2) Sunday night, May 22, the excellent Parish Choir gave the Cantata, "Christ the Victor," by Dudley Buck. The Choir was assisted by Shirley Leonard of the Charlotte Symphony, Virginia Milroy of the Greensboro Opera Association, Ronald Milroy of the First Presbyterian Church of Winston-Salem, and Reilly Mathews, Jr., of the Moravian Church in Winston-Salem.

(3) The attendance and high rating of the Sunday School — thanks to such faithful teachers as Mrs. Smith, Mrs. France, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Edwards, Ethel Browder, Emily Dockery, Barbara Georgian, Meta Covington, Mike Georgion, and Superintendent, Edwin W. Hurst.

While praising the Sunday School Department, Rev. Mr. Robinson suggested that the congregation should give several "alleluias" for the following ladies who cared for the Guild of the Christ Child (baby sitters to you): Lillie Deal, Nellie Leak, Grace Bowes, Agnes Pruitt, Ellen Nicolson, Delores Edwards, Jamie Covington, Lena Everett, Susan Robinson, and Virginia Pruitt, director.

On Sunday after Easter, at the Diocesan Presentation Service for the Children's mite box offering at St. Luke's, Salisbury, we were represented by Tom Taylor, Bunky Symmes, Theron Phifer, Vicki Phifer, Marilyn Miller, and C. E. B. Robinson. Our children's mite boxes offered $28.10. The banner which Marilyn made for us was the best one there.

Quinquagesima, February 12, 1956: Ash Wednesday — the first day of Lent. In checking some of the Rev. Mr. Robinson's instructional literature for special days of the Church year, you

would find the following quote from the **Emporia** (Kansas) **Gazette** for the above occasion: "The Church is a gathering place for people of like minds and particularly of like economic status. We have different faiths for people of different incomes, and the lower the income, the hotter the hell and the brighter the heaven. As income rises, hell cools, heaven becomes rather nebulous and less gaudy. The church becomes a pleasant gathering place, a sort of club where men and women meet with peculiar felicity and considerable freedom of thought and action."

Long time ago, when we were building the Parish House and had spent all the money we could borrow from the banks, the following good Christian men signed notes so that we could get enough money to complete the building: W. R. Jones; W. R. Jones, Jr.; A. G. Corpening; W. Alex and Helen Cox Snead; J. P. Leak; Walter F. Long, III; H. B. Garden; E. W. Duvall; G. Calhoun Pruitt; G. S. Chapin. A sufficient amount had been paid on the debt at this accounting that those notes had been cancelled. We shall always owe thanks to the good Christian members of the congregation.

On Sunday next before Advent, thirteen Church members became communicants of this Parish — 2 by transfer; 11 by confirmation. Only three of these were born here; two more within the State; and the rest came from Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Ireland, Missouri, Poland, and New Jersey.

Easter Tide — 1957: The white super-frontal for the Altar, the handiwork of Susan Robinson, was a gift from the Robinsons in thanksgiving to God for six happy years of life in the Church of the Messiah. The hangings for the pulpit and lectern and the Bible marker were the gift and handiwork of Ellen Nicolson and Susan Robinson. The burse and veil for the Communion vessels were the gift of Connie Leak.

November 17, 1957, the Rev. Urban (Terry) Holmes, from Chapel Hill, N. C., who served here during his Dioconate, (now dean of the School of Theology at Sewanee, Tenn.) was a visitor at the Church of the Messiah. At the time of his visit he was serving as Chaplain at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, La.

Knowing that he would in a few weeks be leaving the Rockingham Parish which he had lovingly served for seven years, the Rev. Mr. Robinson explained in one of the last issues of his church bulletin the proper procedure for a congregation to continue strong and effective while searching for a new rector. In fact, he had been advising the Vestry about such matters for nearly a year. He assured the members of the Church of his devotion, and apologized for his occasional scoldings (because he loved them). He wanted the Church of the Messiah to achieve honest-to-goodness Parishood rather than, in reality, acting like an organized Mission.

Like a kind father leaving a heritage to his children, he spelled out the reasons why he was leaving them in a state of good health: The church had three fine licensed Lay-Readers: Edwin W. Hurst, Jr., Calhoun Pruitt, and Edward Bartlette; the Wardens had appointed the following to serve until the new rector assumed his duties: Gail Johnson, in charge of music; Charles King, Jr., advisor to acolytes; Payne Hurst, accountable for Altar supplies; Edwin Hurst, executive head of Sunday School; William Jones, secretary and treasurer; Calhoun Pruitt, in charge of opening devotions. Edwin Hurst would also continue as director of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews.

In his final bulletin, January 19, 1958, the departing Rector reminded the congregation that Holy Communion Service is the only Christian worship, the only worship ordained by Christ, the only worship which only a Christian can do . . . Any other devotional activity is but a preparation for Holy Communion — including baptism, confirmation, confession, and absolution. On January 31, 1958, Rev. and Mrs. Robinson left Rockingham for their permanent home in York, South Carolina.

February 23, Rev. Mr. Robinson, accompanied by Mrs. Robinson, returned at the Vestry's request for the purpose of celebrating Holy Communion and dedicating the burse, communion veil, bible markers, and super-frontal for the Altar, previously donated by Mrs. C. P. Stewart and Mrs. Mary Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Corpening. The workmanship was that of Mrs. Ellen Nicolson and Mrs. Virginia Pruitt, a valuable donation indeed.

The Sunday following the visit of the Robinsons to the Church of the Messiah, the contents of a letter from them was published in the Church Bulletin expressing sincere thanks for the check for $200 presented to them by the Senior Warden, and explaining how deeply touched they were by the number of parishioners and friends from Rockingham, Hamlet, Wadesboro, Laurinburg, and Charlotte who attended the reception given in their honor. (The Ladies of the Church did such a magnificent job upon this occasion that the Vestry voted them a **cum laude** note of thanks.)

The Rev. Mr. Robinson was sorely missed upon relinquishing his rectorship of the Rockingham Parish. Several visiting committees began immediately to search for a replacement. With the close of the 1957 Church year, there were 94 communicants in the Parish. The Sunday School had 14 officers and teachers; 16 members in the adult Bible class; 44 in other classes.

Wednesday, February 26, the Vestry invited the Rev. John Zunes from Cooleemee, N. C., to conduct Evening Prayer. The Rev. Mr. Zunes and his wife were in Rockingham seeing the town and the Church of the Messiah. Later in the evening, at a special meeting of the Vestry, it was voted unanimously to issue a call to the Rev. Mr. Zunes, subject to the approval of Bishop Penick. With the Bishop's blessing, Rev. John Zunes did

accept the call to the Rockingham Parish, and provisions were made for him to assume the rectorship in his new church on April 8, 1958.

The young Zunes couple — John and Helen — had one son, 15 months old Stevie. And they hoped to move here shortly after Easter. The new Minister was a native of Norfolk, Va., and an alumnus of V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va., Duke Divinity School, and Virginia Seminary. Helen was a native of Wilson, North Carolina, and a graduate of Mary Baldwin, Staunton, Virginia.

For the interim of the next two months, the Parish Church proceeded nobly under its own steam; however, for the Good Friday and Easter Services, the Reverend Harry C. Cobey of Hamlet, came to the rescue. The Rev. Mr. Robinson had returned to conduct the Palm Sunday Services.

**Rev. Mr. Zunes Assumes Rectorship of the Rockingham Parish**

On the Second Sunday after Easter, April 20, 1958, the Rev. John A. Zunes, in his official capacity as Rector of the Rockingham Parish, expressed both his and his wife's happiness at being connected with the Church of the Messiah. They looked forward to the joy of sharing with the congregation the work of God's Kingdom, and wished to thank all who had made the task of getting settled in the Parish rectory an easy one.

Saint Peter the Apostle's commemorative day for 1958 fell on June 29. So it was a joy to see the Altar and all the markers and hangings adorned in the beautiful red trimmings appropriate for the occasion. The red Super-frontal, Pulpit Antependia, Lectern Hangings, as well as the Communion Burse and Veil, were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Arthur Glenn Corpening, and Louise Linton Corpening, by Arthur Corpening, Jr., Samuel L. Corpening, and Mrs. Louise C. Perry. The work was done by Ellen Nicolson and Virginia Pruitt, the same ladies who made the beautiful white hangings for the Altar and chancel the past Easter.

During the month of July 1958, Bishop Baker of the Diocese of North Carolina, together with many more American Bishops, met with some 400 Bishops of the Anglican Communion from all over the world at Lambeth Palace, London, in the ninth Lambeth Conference. This Conference meets approximately every ten years, and it is made up of Bishops from all over the Anglican Communion. They discuss together the affairs of the Christian Church in the world today under such topics as: The Holy Bible, Church Unity, Progress in the Anglican Communion, Conflicts between and within Nations, and the Family in Contemporary Society. The decisions of the Conference are not binding on the member Churches as would be Canon Law.

On the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity, Bishop Edwin A. Penick, now in his 71st year of life and in failing health, visited the Church of the Messiah, preached the sermon, and con-

firmed the following candidates into the membership of the Protestant Episcopal Church: George Alexander Graham Browder, Jr., Thomas Hector Phifer, William Nicolson Smith, Carl Kenneth Welch, and William Lawson Welch, Jr.

In the Invocation Prayer of the Order of Confirmation in the Book of Common Prayer the Gifts of the Holy Ghost are listed as these: The spirit of wisdom and understanding; The spirit of counsel and ghostly strength; The spirit of knowledge and true godliness; The spirit of holy fear, or fear of the Lord.

On Good Friday, March 26, 1959, a Community Three-hour service was held in the Church of the Messiah, at which time each of the Seven Words from the Cross were used as the basis for prayer and meditation. The following Churches participated in the service: Park Ave. Presbyterian; Pee Dee Methodist; Church of the Messiah; First Presbyterian, Hamlet; Cartledge Creek Baptist; First Methodist; First Baptist.

## DIOCESAN BISHOP PENICK DIED APRIL 6, 1959

At the regular Diocesan Convention of 1958, Bishop Penick's retirement was announced to take place April 4, 1959, and his many friends and admirers had been raising funds with which to buy a suitable home for his retirement — a tribute to the man who had served the Diocese faithfully for 37 years. But Bishop Penick died, April 6, 1959, and Bishop Baker succeeded as Diocesan.

Bishop Penick, the son of an Episcopal minister, and the father of one, was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, on April 4, 1887, where his father was Rector of the Church of the Ascension. He graduated at the University of the South, at Sewanee, Tenn., in 1912. He earned a Master's degree from Harvard, and in 1909 entered the Virginia Seminary as a candidate for the ministry from the Diocese of South Carolina.

Shortly afterward, he was ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Guerry, and in 1913, he was ordained to the Priesthood in Grace Church, Charleston. He served as Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Columbia, South Carolina, until 1918 when he entered the Service as Army Chaplain. In 1919 he was called to Saint Peter's Church in Charlotte and remained there until he was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of North Carolina. He was consecrated there by Bishop Cheshire. He was only 35 years old when he became a bishop.

Bishop Penick won the reputation of being an able administrator, a wise counselor, and an outstanding preacher. He served on the National Council of the Episcopal Church, and was President of the Fourth Province, Vice President for the American Church Institute for Negroes, and on several other Church boards.

The death of Bishop Penick on April 6, 1959, and the

election of Reverend Thomas A. Fraser, D. D., as Bishop Coadjutor, February 3, 1960, at the "Special Convention", occurred during the departure of the Rev. Mr. Zunes as rector of the Rockingham Parish and before the Rev. Mr. Sparks assumed his rectorship here, June 1, 1960. Edward Hurst was the only delegate from the Church of the Messiah to attend the "Special Convention."

Before being elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of North Carolina, the Rev. Mr. Fraser had served in the Diocese of New York. In 1944, he became the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia, coming to St. Paul's Church, Winston-Salem, in 1951. He was consecrated Bishop at St. Paul's Church, Winston-Salem, May 13, 1960.

**Rev. Mr. John A. Zunes Accepts Call to West Virginia Church**

After serving one year as rector of the Church of the Messiah, the Rev. Mr. Zunes announced in the April 19, 1959 Church Bulletin that he had accepted a call to become rector of Christ Church, Wellsburg, West Virginia, on May 1. He and his family would leave the evening of April 29. He also announced that the Senior Warden had arranged for Rev. C. E. B. Robinson and the Rev. I. Harding Hughes to be here for services for the next few Sundays.

On the last Sunday that Rev. Mr. Zunes held services here, he issued this statement in his church bulletin: "We will certainly remember this congregation in our prayers, and I hope you will remember us in yours."

**NEW MINISTER FOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH — JUNE 1, 1960**

Effective June 1st., Rev. Jesse S. Sparks became Rector of the Church of the Messiah at Rockingham. The Episcopal congregation felt most fortunate in his acceptance to this Parish.

Mr. Sparks was 28, a graduate of the College of Charleston, and the Divinity School at Sewanee. He was born at Bath, in Eastern Carolina, son of Mrs. Alice W. Sparks and the late Jesse S. Sparks.

He was furnished an apartment in the Oakwood Apartments on Everett Street; the Rectory was for rent.

He was ordained into the Episcopal ministry May 15, 1959, at St. Stephen, South Carolina, and since 1958 had served the Church at Pinopolis.

Mr. Sparks succeeded Rev. John Zunes who resigned April 29, 1959. The local Episcopal Church, started in 1899 and completed in 1900, was at the beginning a frame structure, but was moved forward and brick-veenered in the mid-twenties. It was consecrated October 14, 1900.

The Rev. Jesse S. Sparks held his first Sunday Services at the Church of the Messiah on Whitsunday (commonly known

as Pentecost), June 5, 1960. This great feast day is one of the three festivals of note in the Church Year, which include Christmas and Easter.

This is the day when the promise of our Lord, the Son of God, was fulfilled, in that He, having departed at the Ascension, sent the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity to give life to the Church and all the members of the Church by His indwelling presence.

The eager, alert note sounded in the young Rector's introductory sermon was quite indicative of his active leadership in the Episcopal Church during the next two years of his rectorship. The masthead of Rev. Mr. Spark's bulletin (titled simply "The Parish Bulletin") usually read as follows : The Right Reverend Richard H. Baker, D.D., Bishop; the Reverend Jesse S. Sparks, Rector; Mr. Ed. Hurst, Sen. Warden; Mr. Walter Long, Junior Warden.

Since the practice of taking Communion in an Episcopal Church is often wrongly misunderstood by members of other religious organizations, Rev. Mr. Sparks offered this instruction in one of his early bulletins: "This is a question which has never been answered officially by our Church as a whole, so practice may vary from place to place. It should be remembered that this is the Lord's Supper, not a Church Supper. Visitors, who are baptized members of other denominations and accustomed to receiving Communion in their own denominations are invited to receive with us. However, if a person continues to attend this Church as an "unofficial member", the situation changes.

Episcopalians do not receive Communion until they are confirmed. Our Church does not encourage us to take confirmation lightly. Therefore, if anyone wishes to receive Communion regularly at our Altars, he or she should first be confirmed by the Bishop.

During the summer of 1960, Rev. Mr. Sparks vacationed in Europe, July 26th through September 2nd. Lay-Readers Hurst, Pruitt, and Bartlette assisted by the members of the Vestry conducted services during his absence. It was at this time that the Reverend Howard S. Hartzell, who had served as the rector of the Church of the Messiah from 1922 to 1934, returned to Rockingham with his wife "Miss Mossie" to live in semi-retirement. He became Rector Emeritus of the local parish and taught the adult Bible Class. He was also available for administering the Holy Rites of the Church when the Rector was called elsewhere.

Sunday, September 11, 1960, Mr. Tommy Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Taylor, was the guest preacher at the 11:00 o'clock Service. At this time he was a Middler at Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

## QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q. What is the work of a Priest?

A. The office of a Priest is to minister to the people committed to his care; to preach the word of God; to baptize, to celebrate the Holy Communion; and to pronounce Absolution and Blessing in God's name.

Q. What is an Episcopal Church?

A. An Episcopal Church is a Church which is governed by Bishops.

## NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR

The rector and Vestry announced Sunday, November 13, 1960, that the Church of the Messiah had employed Miss Joe Prevette to direct the choir. Miss Prevette, a graduate of Greensboro College, and holding a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Union Seminary, New York City, was formerly employed as Choir director at the First Presbyterian Church, Rockingham, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Monroe, North Carolina.

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The new Church Year of 1961 began with the following elected members serving on the Vestry: Walter F. Long, III, Senior Warden; Walter R. Jones, Jr., Junior Warden; E. Bert McLaurin, Secretary; R. Edward Bartlette, George A. Browder, J. Pickett Leak, Hugh A. Lee, James W. Smith, James Turnage.

The Church Staff consisted of these people: Treasurer, Mrs. E. Bert McLaurin; Organist and Choir Director, Mrs. Sewell Bowers; Assistant Organist, Mrs. James E. Turnage; Parish Secretary, Mrs. R. Edward Bartlette; Church School Supt., Mr. E. W. Hurst, Jr.; Church School Sec., Mr. T. Norris France; Chairman of Ushers, Mr. R. Edw. Bartlette; Pres. Women of the Church, Mrs. T. Norris France; Key Man, Mr. E. W. Hurst, Jr.

* * * *

Bishop Fraser paid his annual visit to the Rockingham Parish, January 15. He came not only to administer confirmation, but also to visit our Christian Community as the chief Pastor of our Church. He celebrated Communion at the eight o'clock service and administered confirmation and preached at the eleven o'clock service. He was also available for pastoral visitation. The loose offering was given to the Bishop for his Discretionary Fund.

There was a Congregational Meeting, Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House. The purpose of this meeting was to learn what the Diocese could do about establishing a Home for the Aging in Southern Pines. A chairman of the Episcopal Home Building Fund from Charlotte told the story of the Episcopal home. The Vestry met in the Rector's

study at 5:00 p.m. for the same purpose. Mr. Bert McLaurin was the Parish Chairman for this cause.

The initial cost of the Home for the Aging was $350,000, and the Church of the Messiah was asked to contribute $5,000. The Vestry felt that this was not an unreasonable amount for our Church to raise and asked that each communicant give this cause his serious consideration. Support of the home was asked by making a pledge spread over 24 months or three tax years.

At its January meeting the Vestry unanimously agreed to accept the full amount of the Episcopal Maintenance Assessment for 1961 — $371.05 and $500 of our Church's Program Quota. It was hoped by the Vestry that more could be given later in the year.

Mrs. John C. Dockery announced in the April 16, 1961 Parish Bulletin that the Fashion Show had proven a great success. The proceeds amounted to $223.89. She expressed her thanks to the members of the Episcopal Churchwomen for their willing spirit of cooperation displayed during this endeavor.

Cal Pruitt reported that he had received a total of $152.00 for the purchase of seventy-six new hymnals for our church choir. He wished to express thanks to all who contributed to the Hymnal Memorial Fund.

**The 145th Annual Convention Announced**

The 145th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina was duly appointed to be held in St. Timothy's Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, May 9 & 10, 1961. The following men were elected by the Vestry as delegates: Bert McLaurin, Jim Nicolson, Ed. Hurst, and Cal Pruitt. Alternate delegates were: Watt Jones, Hugh Lee, Norris France, and Don Chaplin.

At its April meeting the Vestry of the Church of the Messiah designated October 1st. as Mortgage Burning Sunday. As of March 31, the parish house debt was $1,870.00. Of this amount $1,055.25 had been pledged, leaving $814.75 unpledged. The Vestry and Rector urged all members of the congregation to take care of their pledges and help to meet the remaining indebtedness by the date scheduled for the Mortgage Burning. The struggle to raise the capital for the payment of the Parish House had been in progress since January of 1951, but now the goal seemed to be within sight.

**Whitsunday (Birthday of the Christian Church) — May 21, 1961**

The Church of the Messiah received five children into the congregation of Christ's flock on this Whitsunday. This Sunday was originally called "White Sunday," because white garments were worn by the newly baptised on this day.

Another event in the life of the Parish on this day was the dedication of our new Allen organ. The congregation gratefully received this organ from Mrs. Henry C. Wall, and dedicated it to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, the late Henry C. Wall.

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Last Sunday, May 28th, with the closing of the Sunday School for the summer months, awards were presented to the following for perfect attendance for the year: Emily Dockery, Bill Smith and Steve Smith. John C. Dockery was given an award for having attended Church School for five years without an absence. Paul Zaras received an award for having attended Church School for six years and Artie Zaras for seven years, both with perfect attendance.

Mrs. Betty Smith presented awards to David Browder and Steve Smith for having learned the books of the Bible. And recognition pins were given to these students for officially enrolling in the Church School: Jamie and Jon Woodruff, Kevin Chaplin, Bill and Peter Laine; and David, Rosemary, and Valerie Robinson.

The Parish House debt was liquidated on September 19th and Bishop Frazier visited the Church of the Messiah, October 1st, at 4 p.m. to bless the building. A tea followed in the Parish House.

**Vestry Appointed Rectory Committee**

At a special Vestry meeting on October 2nd, the Vestry and Rector appointed a Rectory Committee. Those who were asked to serve on this Committee were George Browder, Chairman; James Smith, Bert McLaurin, W. R. Jones, Sr., Pickett Leak, Elizabeth Barwick and Agnes Pruitt. With the Parish House debt liquidated, the congregation immediately began planning for a new rectory. So the Vestry appointed Pickett Leak, James Nicolson, and Calhoun Pruitt to receive and review the stocks owned by the Rockingham Parish, as well as other assets.

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The accomplishments and efforts of the entire congregation of the Church of the Messiah during the first year of the Rev. Jesse Spark's rectorship in Rockingham were so astounding that, after a decade of silence regarding the Church, the now ageing Isaac London became somewhat eulogistic in an informal speech he made on March 8, 1961. He likened the new burst of energy and enthusiasm to the 1922-34 years of progress during the period of the Rev. Mr. Hartzell's stay in the Parish.

After recalling some of the historic events in the growth of the Church, Mr. London wrote as follows: ". . . and now since June of 1960 (we have) our present Jesse Sparks. And Jesse is truly a 'spark-plug', as his name indicates; and he is

revitalizing our Church and making it assume a rightful place of leadership in the community. Especially is the church fortunate in the fact that Bert and Bernice McLaurin in the early 1960's cast their lot with us, and Ed and Ina Bartlette. And also is the congregation blessed by the return of Howard and Mossie Hartzell from Warrenton; and the activity of Watt Long, Watt Jones, Ed Hurst — in fact, the Church of the Messiah now in 1961 is experiencing its most progressive growth — again with credit due to the "spark" of Jesse Sparks!

"In recent years, the Church has received new life by James Nicolson, the George Browders, the Jim and Betty Walters Smiths, the Norris Frances, the Dardens — so many (once) "newcomers" but now one of us — and a most important "one of us."

On March 15, 1962, the Rev. Jesse Sparks accepted a "call" to the Church of St. John in Sylva, North Carolina. His stay in Rockingham had been less than two years, but those years had been most fulfilling. His many friends were saddened to see him leave.

With the departure of Rev. Mr. Sparks, the Rev. Harry S. Cobey, retired, of Hamlet, North Carolina, supplied as Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Messiah, assisted by Rev. Mr. Hartzell, Rector-Emeritus. Rev. Mr. Cobey, of the University of Maryland and Berkeley Divinity School, was ordained in the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. During his years of active service, he held a number of highly responsible rectorships throughout the South.

The Rev. Mr. Cobey remained as the acting Rector of the Parish from March until Sunday, May 27, 1962. On the remaining Sundays in June and the first Sunday in July, the Sunday morning services consisted of Morning Prayer and Sermon at 10:00 a.m., conducted by the Rev. Mr. Hartzell.

The June 10th Church Bulletin announced that the Rev. John W. Tucker, the new Rector of the Parish, would arrive during the first week in July and would hold his first service on July 8th, the Second Sunday in the month.

At the time the Rev. Mr. Tucker accepted the call to the Rockingham Parish, he was Priest-in-Charge of St. Agnes Church, Franklin, North Carolina. He pursued his theological training at Bexly Hall Theological Seminary in Ohio. However, he was a native of Asheville, North Carolina, Diocese of Western North Carolina. He was ordained to the ministry at Trinity Church in that city.

**The Facts of Stewardship:**

The Sandhills Convocation Meeting, held Wednesday, October 17, 1962 at St. Thomas Church, Sanford, was attended by the following church officers: Mrs. Hugh Deal, President of the Episcopal Churchwomen; Mr. Walter R. Jones, Jr., Every Mem-

ber Canvass Chairman; Mr. Ed Hurst, who was excellently presented by the Rev. Mr. Beckwith of St. Michael's Church in Raleigh.

The Vestry announced recently that to operate the Church of the Messiah on the minimum budget adopted for the year 1963 would cost $151.38 per confirmed communicant, plus $34.10 for the Diocese and National Church.

According to the instructions included in the October 21 Bulletin, the Episcopal Church is not made up of a group of local, isolated congregations. We are necessarily a part of the Diocesan and National Church, and cannot exist as an Episcopal Church otherwise. Of the 120 missions and parishes (1962) in the Diocese of North Carolina, we are one of the few who do not carry our fair share of what is asked of us.

The Episcopal Church women of the Church of the Messiah took part in the United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering. There were twenty-eight women present and the total offering was $75.68.

Thanksgiving Day offering for the Thompson Orphanage in Charlotte was $97.97.

In a form letter sent to the people of the Diocese of North Carolina prior to the first Sunday in May (Mother's Day), The Rt. Rev. Richard H. Baker, Bishop of North Carolina, reminded the congregations that the Episcopal Home for the Ageing was under construction, and the schedule for its opening was early in December 1963. Again, on September 29, 1963, a Diocesan report announced that The Edwin A. Penick Memorial Home at Southern Pines was 75% completed and should be ready for occupancy by the 1st. of December. Furthermore, over $21,000.00 in Mother's Day collections would be used to help those in need.

On the First Sunday after Epiphany (1963), the following candidates were presented to the Rt. Rev. Thos. Fraser from the Church of the Messiah for the rite of confirmation: Laura Jane DiRienzo, Vincent Lawrence DiRienzo, Jr., Emily Cheshire Dockery, Jane Carson France, William John Laine, Jr., Benjamin Mitchell Long, Valerie Dale Robinson, Elizabeth Ann Smith, Rachel Agnes White. From All Saints' Episcopal Church, Hamlet, and sharing in the same presentation of candidates were: H. Vance Mann, III; Charles Calvin Moore, and Mary Ann Rice.

The undesignated offering for the service went to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. A coffee hour followed the service. Hostesses were Mrs. Kenneth Woodbury and Miss Eleanor Dockery, members of St. Anne's Guild.

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The Rev. Mr. Tucker announced recently that the piano in the Parish House was seriously ill. Also, the piano tuner reported that the case was incurable.

The Diocesan Convention held in Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte, North Carolina, was May 14 and 15, 1963, was attended by close to 1,000 Episcopalians of this area. Delegates from the Church of the Messiah were Messrs. Becker, Dockery, Pruitt, France, Robinson, McLaurin, Hurst, and Tucker. Walter F. Long, III was elected alternate delegate to the Synod meeting of the Fourth Province, representing the Diocese of North Carolina. T. Norris France received appointment to the Diocesan Canonical Committee on Credentials and Elections, made by the Bishop.

As an outgrowth of the Convention in Charlotte, the Vestry asked the Senior Warden, Norris France, to inform the members of the Parish of certain alterations in the pattern of stewardship, as well as any other matters deemed worthy of their attention.

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Forty-five children were registered in the Messiah Church School during the nine-month period of 1963. They maintained an average attendance record of 68%.

The Diocesan Library of educational materials including film strips, movies, records, etc. is available as supplementary material to any church school in the diocese without charge, as are the services of specially trained Christian Education Directors, who are available as consultants to any group of teachers.

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The Rev. Mr. Tucker and his family were away on their vacation during the last Sunday in July and the first Sunday in August. On July 28th, the guest minister was the Rev. Jesse S. Sparks, former rector at the Messiah Parish (May 31, 1960-March 16, 1962). He was now priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's Church, Mount Holly, North Carolina. On August 4th — Sunday, the Rev. Howard Hartzell, Rector Emeritus, delivered the sermon. He was assisted by lay-reader, E. W. Hurst, Jr.

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In a very stern sermon delivered by the Rev. John W. Tucker at the 11 o'clock Celebration of Holy Communion Sunday, October 6, 1963, the Rector stated that every communicant of the Parish should feel it his or her obligation to help meet the budget for the church-year, not just the few who came forward and took care of the deficit. The Finance Committee, having wrestled with financial problems all year, requested that the sermon be reproduced in the Messiah Herald publication for the benefit of those members of the congregation not present the previous Sunday.

**Isaac London Honored:**

In December 1963, the Messiah Vestry conferred an honor on a man who had served in practically every capacity of church work — vestryman, Church School superintendent, Senior War-

den — and now historian.

"Good and faithful service" was the reason the Vestry gave for electing Isaac London to "honorary membership."

The Rector added this comment: "What we lack in eloquence of expression, we make up for by the affection we feel for Isaac London whose vigorous approach and lively wit make us ever thankful for his presence among us, and mighty proud to claim him for our own."

**One Hundred-Forty-Eighth Diocesan Convention:**

The Chapel of the Cross, located on the campus of the University of North Carolina, was the host to the 148th Dioscean Convention held January 28-29.

Messiah delegates were John F. Becker, George Browder, Edward Bartlette, and T. Norris France. Alternates were John Dockery, Oscar Kirby, Bert McLaurin, and John Miller. Rev. Mr. Tucker accompanied the delegates.

**In Memoriam:** ISAAC S. LONDON — December 11, 1885-July 8, 1964

**Faithful Parishioner:**

Mrs. G. M. Bowes left Rockingham, August 2, 1964, for Oxford, North Carolina, where she planned to make a new home. "Miss Gracie" had been a great source of strength to the Parish for nearly 40 years, and she was sorely missed.

**Penick Memorial Home Dedication:**

Sunday, September 13, the congregation of the Rockingham Parish was invited to attend the Dedication Ceremonies at the Bishop Edwin A. Penick Memorial Home. Among the church furnishings to be dedicated was the chapel Altar, a gift of Mrs. C. P. Stewart of this Church, in memory of her sister Mary Vollum Linton.

**New Prayer Books Dedicated:**

On January 31, 1965, Rev. Mr. Tucker dedicated a hundred new Prayer Books which were made available for regular worship. These Books replaced those which had disappeared or had become outworn through long years of service. Many of them were given as Memorials; others were in the form of a donation to the Chapel. Mr. Calhoun Pruitt, drive chairman, did an excellent job in engineering this project.

**Banquet for Retiring Bishop Baker:**

The Rt. Rev. Richard H. Baker, whose retirement as Diocesan was not to become effective before July 1965, was highly

honored at a banquet at the Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel, Tuesday, February 2, 1965. In fact, this event highlighted the 1965 Convention, over which the Bishop presided. Four hundred and seventy-five Episcopalians from the Diocese of North Carolina heard seven Bishops (including the Rt. Rev. John E. Hines, Presiding Bishop of the United States) pay tribute to Bishop Baker.

Many varied and valuable tokens, including a purse of $5,000 were presented to Bishop Baker to indicate the high esteem in which he was held, both by the clergy and laity of his diocese, as well as by many in his native state of Maryland.

Bishop Henry (the late Bishop of Western North Carolina) aptly contrasted the personality of Bishop Baker with that of his two immediate predecessors, Bishops Cheshire and Penick: "Bishop Cheshire was the autocratic Bishop . . . but beloved; and Bishop Penick was . . . a real father-image, but . . . respected. To me, Bishop Baker is my brother — my brother-in-Christ."

Attending the banquet from the Church of the Messiah were delegates John Dockery, Dale Robinson, and Calhoun Pruitt; the Rev. Mr. Howard Hartzell, Mrs. Hartzell, and Rev. and Mrs. John W. Tucker.

**Charles Winfield King Funeral:**

Funeral services for Charles Winfield King were held at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, March 25, 1965, in the Church of the Messiah. The Parish expressed its sympathy to the King family.

"Mr. Charles" was the last surviving charter member of the Church of the Messiah. Only those who had worshipped with him over the years could possibly understand the faithful dedication of this parishioner to the Church he loved.

**Reverend Howard Hartzell Honored:**

The community's affectionate regard for Rev. Mr. Hartzell and appreciation of his contributions was made clear at the Civitan's Recognition Night honoring him, November 18, 1965. Guest speaker for the event was the Rev. Jesse Sparks, former rector of this parish, now of St. Peter's, Charleston, South Carolina.

The Civitans and the members of the Parish had benefited greatly from his presence and ministry among them. Mr. Hartzell was a charter member of the Rockingham Civitan Club, one of the oldest in the State.

**Vestry Officers, Delegates Elected:**

E. Bert McLaurin assumed 1966 Senior Warden's duties, following his election to the post at the December meeting of the Vestry. Elected to other offices were: John Miller, Junior Warden; and Dr. Philip Whitehead, Secretary.

Walter Long, Calhoun Pruitt, Bert McLaurin and Dr. Philip Whitehead were named delegates to the 1966 Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina to be held February 1 and 2 at the Church of the Holy Comforter, Charlotte. Alternates were Hugh Deal, Edward Bartlette, Edwin Hurst and James Smith.

A feature of the 1966 Convention was the Installation of Bishop Fraser as Diocesan. In order to accommodate the expected number, the service of Installation (only) was moved to the larger facilities of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

**Christmas 1965 Memorable Occasion:**

For months, the Faithful had been working long hours at many projects, in many fields of endeavor, to make this Christmas one to be remembered. And so it was! But as the Rector pointed out later, festival occasions don't "just happen." Acolytes must practice. Choir members must rehearse. (Aside from the usual requirements of daily living.) Then the trumpeters had to do their trumpeting.

Elsewhere, Mrs. Virginia Pruitt, Mrs. George Browder, Mrs. Oscar Kirby, Mrs. Douglas Loury, and Mrs. Archie Palmer, needles flying, were involved in replacing choir cottas. Others were cleaning the vestments which were soiled. Assisting in this work were Mrs. Norris France, Miss Eleanor Dockery, Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. Philip White, Mrs. George Browder, Mrs. James Smith, Mrs. Edwin Hurst, Mrs. Virginia Pruitt and Mrs. John Tucker.

Mrs. E. B. Bristow wrought her magic in decorating the Altar. Mrs. Lynwood Fowlkes contributed the magnolia leaves. There were many poinsettia contributions — some given, some loaned. Some were memorials.

The trumpeters were: Tom France, Theron Miller, Bobby Ruth Goodman.

Altar: Mrs. Douglas Loury, and Mrs. Archie Palmer.
Ushers: Edwin Hurst, Jr., and Norris France.
Acolytes: John Dockery, Bob Kirby, Ben Long, Vincent Dirienzo, Steve Smith, Tom France, Bart Bartlette, Alan Simmerman, Theron Miller, Watt Long, III, David Browder, Robert Browder, George Browder, Robert Miller, Hector Phifer, Larry White, John White, John Simmerman.

The following year was to see the Rev. Mr. Tucker, after four years of faithful service as Rector, move on to newer endeavors. Many of the young acolytes were soon to join the college groups elsewhere and the mobile forces of society. Transfers, marriages, and death would soon remove several of the most active parishioners from the congregation. The inexorable forces of change could not be harnessed.

**Vestry Minutes**

January 13, 1966: The Secretary, P. M. Whitehead, O.D., was directed to write a letter of commendation and thanks to Mr. W. R. Jones for his part in the building of the Rectory.

**Vestry Minutes** — February 10, 1966: The Secretary was directed to write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Wall in appreciation of her donation of the Rectory building lot.

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**Rector Emeritus Honored at Parish Buffet**

February 17, 1966: Rev. Howard Hartzell, innocently thought that he was attending the usual type parish "covered-dish supper", the evening of February 17th, until Edwin Hurst, master-of-ceremonies, said: "You were born in Sumney town, Pennsylvania." Then he realized that he had been **conned** into missing his Civitan Club meeting and was now in for a home-town version of "This Is Your Life."

And what a wonderful life it was! So many of his old parishioners were still around, even though it had been 32 years since he was the Rector of the Church of the Messiah and helped to pilot it to the status of parishood. After twelve years in Rockingham, he had served 14 years at St. Mary's in High Point; then 11 years at Emmanuel Church in Warrenton.

Mrs. Dale Robinson had journeyed all the way from Fayetteville in order to sing her former rector's favorite song, Gounod's "Ave Marie." And Mrs. R. P. Dicks gave a lively account of the "Hartzell Years." Rev. Philip Cato, Chaplain of North Carolina State University, was the guest speaker.

In presenting gifts to the Hartzells, Layman president, Bill Simmerman, paid tribute to Mrs. Hartzell as that "special woman behind every good man."

Bishop Fraser sent congratulatory greetings.

**Open House For New Episcopal Rectory:**

The lovely new Episcopal rectory at 1319 Carolina Drive had been completed and occupied by Rev. Mr. Tucker and his family by January 13, 1966; however, the Open House reception, compliments of the Episcopal Church Women, was not held until April 24th. About 125 church members and guests attended. Mrs. E. B. Bristow did the arrangements of spring flowers seen in every room, donations from the gardens of the church ladies.

Welcoming guests were Mrs. Cal Pruitt and Mrs. Foy Barwick, both of whom served on the Building Committee with Mr. W. R. Jones, Sr.; Mrs. E. Bert McLaurin, and Mrs. Howard

Hartzell were at the serving table. Mrs. Norris France and Mrs. George Browder served the punch and cookies. Mrs. James Smith had previously arranged and handled a myriad of advance details.

With the rectory family, guests, and parishioners gathered on the front walk of the home, the Rev. Christopher K. Cole of Hamlet began the traditional office of "Blessing of the House."

The three-point building program which the Parish had set for itself back in 1924 — when the Church of the Messiah had been raised to the status of "parish" — had now been accomplished with the acquisition of a fine rectory in a desirable residential area: the brick-veneering of the frame structure of the church building, the erection of the commodious parish house, and now a rectory that future priests might find more to their taste than the old building on Everett Street.

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**In Memoriam:** James Pickett Leak, Jr. — March 11, 1965 — Age: 66

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**Laymen Officers:**

George Pope was elected President of the Parish Laymen's Association for 1966-67. Other officers included Hugh Deal, Vice-President; and James Turnage, Secretary-Treasurer.

**Vestry Minutes: September 8, 1966:**

This proved to be the last Vestry meeting of the Parish attended by the Rev. Mr. Tucker. Before the next monthly Business Meeting, the Rector had tendered his resignation as Priest-in-charge to become Associate Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh, North Carolina. His tenure at the Rockingham Parish had lasted 4 years, 3 months.

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**Vestry Minutes — November 27, 1966:**

Meeting held at the Holiday Inn. Bishop Fraser attended. Selection of a new Rector discussed. The Parish was represented by Senior Warden, Bert McLaurin; Elizabeth Wall, first woman to be elected to the Parish Vestry; Ted Banner, Watt Long, Hugh Lee, Oscar Kirby, George Browder, Cal Pruitt, Edward Bartlette, and Philip Whitehead.

The motion was made and seconded that the basic salary for the new Rector be increased by $500 to $7,000.

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**Vestry Minutes — January 12, 1967:**

In the absence of a rector, the meeting was opened with

prayer by Senior Warden, Bert McLaurin. He announced that the contract for additions to the Rectory had been awarded to Associate Builders at a bid of $3,250.00. The out-going resident had been granted permission to make certain minor changes, and the prospective replacement had insisted upon more storage area and a paved runway.

The Senior Warden proposed that said stocks held by the Church be sold to finance the work now being done on the Rectory. Philip Whitehead moved that the stocks be sold. The motion was seconded by Watt Long, and it so carried.

**The Reverend Warwick Aiken, Jr., New Rector:**

The Rev. Mr. Aiken of Eden (Spray), North Carolina, rather reluctantly left his charge at Saint Luke's to become the new Rector of the Rockingham Parish. Accompanied by Mrs. Aiken and their teenage daughter Everall and son Warwick III, Rev. Warwick Aiken, Jr., assumed his duties at the Church of the Messiah, February 8, 1967. A forceful and scholarly churchman, widely traveled and possessing many talents, the new Rector set about the business of leading his parishioners into greater fields of christian endeavors.

During the first year of his rectorship in the Parish, he was on leave numerous times attending pastoral duties throughout the Diocese, and filling previous commitments made before he arrived in Rockingham.

At his first vestry meeting here, Rev. Mr. Aiken suggested that 100 copies of the New Testament in Modern Language be purchased by the Church and passed out by the Welcome Wagon, compliments of the Church of the Messiah. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and carried.

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On April 23, 1967, a formal reception was given during the afternoon at the home of Mrs. Henry C. Wall, for all communicants of the Church of the Messiah. The congregation sought to honor and welcome the Aiken Family to Rockingham. The Senior Girls of the Church served.

The Rector and Mrs. Aiken thanked the congregation for the lovely reception in their honor and for the many attractive and useful gifts.

The Rector's plea for a new typewriter for the Minister's study was soon rewarded. An excellent typewriter was delivered there, courtesy of Mrs. Lynwood Fowlkes.

**New Members Welcomed Into the Church — 1967:**

July 16 — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lane and son, Bill, Birmingham, Ala.

July 23 — Mr. Eugene H. Palmer of Sandhurst Mills.

October 1 — Mr. and Mrs. Charles Calvin Moore, from All Saints', Hamlet.

November 19 — Mr. Johnny Ray Oliver and Mr. Robert Alan Simmerman, by baptism.

November 19 — David Philip West, from First Methodist, Rockingham.

**New Members — 1968**

January 7 — Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Wager and two sons, Brice and Mark Wager, Christ Church, Bowling Green, Ky.

December 11 — Mrs. Arthur Doyle Collier and son, Scott Doyle; Mr. Robert Washington Glenn; Mrs. Thomas Lartz Powell and her son, Thomas Wayne; Mrs. Vernon Thomas Pryce, Jr., and Master Phillip Otto Whitehead: all by the historic rite of the Laying on of Hands by the Right Reverend W. Moultrie Moore, Jr., Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

December 8, Miss Stacey Lucille Powell, by baptism.

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**Holy Land Tour:**

Rev. Mr. Aiken left April 29, 1968, to be out of town for the next three weeks, conducting a tour of the Holy Land, Athens and Rome. Mr. Bert McLaurin, Senior Warden, was in charge of the services while the Rev. Mr. Aiken was away.

Upon his return to duty, Rev. Warwick Aiken said that he was glad to be back home after a three weeks' vacation in the Holy Land and parts of Europe, and he would like to com mend the faithfulness of the many people, young and old, who supported the services during his absence, especially the Lay Readers who conducted them.

**Vestry Minutes — December 12, 1968:**

Delegates appointed to attend the Diocesan Convention were Archie Palmer, Calhoon Pruitt, Mrs. Warwick Aiken, and Mrs. E. Bert McLaurin.

Newly elected vestrymen were Willie Wager, Oscar Kirby, and Norris France, for three years; George Browder was elected to fill the remaining two-year seat vacated by Ed Hurst.

**March 20, 1969:**

Elizabeth Wall moved that Bernice F. McLaurin, treasurer of the Church of the Messiah, be authorized to dispose of five (5) shares of Jefferson-Pilot Corp. at the market price. The funds of the sale would go to the general treasury of the Church. It was seconded by William Wager and passed by unanimous vote.

**April 15, 1969:**

Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sullivan, nine young people attended the E. Y. C. Convention in Raleigh, April 12, and 13.

**July 27, 1969:**

Refreshments were served in the Vestry meeting room of the Parish House Sunday in Honor of Ted and Mary Banner for the good works they had done as members of the Parish. It was with regret that the congregation saw them leave the Parish due to Mr. Banner's transfer with the North Carolina Forest Service to Kinston, North Carolina.

**A Matter of Protest To the Diocesan Council:**

The Parish Vestry had a brief called-meeting in the Parish House, Sunday, October 26, 1969, to decide what our Church wanted to convey to the Rev. R. Martin Caldwell, our Sandhills Dean, as our representative to the Diocesan Council. The point of contention throughout the Diocese was the Diocese's recommendation to grant the Malcolm X Liberation University $30,000 in addition to the $15,000 already granted by the National Headquarters in New York. The total of $45,000 had already been forwarded to the Malcolm X group, but protest could still be made.

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**IN MEMORIAM:** MRS. CARLOTTA LINTON STEWART — 1873-1969; FAITHFUL Communicant and Benefactress of the Church of the Messiah — Age 96.

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A NEW PRAYER BOOK: "Expert opinions differ as to when an official new edition of the BCP (Book of Common Prayer) will appear — indeed, if ever. The one certainty is that it is years and years in the future."

—Editor of **The Living Church**

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**1969 Confirmations:**

The congregation of the Church of the Messiah welcomed the Rt. Rev. W. Moultrie Moore, Jr., Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, Sunday, November 9, 1969. The Bishop came to perform the Apostolic rite of the Laying on of Hands with prayer for the Holy Spirit for those coming into full fellowship in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He also preached and conducted the service of Holy Communion. Those receiving the Laying on of Hands were Miss Marie Dawn DiRienzo, Eugene Harwell Palmer, Jr., Jeffrey Lynn Palmer, Jeffry Lane Pryce, and William Brice Wager.

**Vestry Minutes**

July 11, 1968: The Rector presented his thoughts both **pro** and **con** about the New Liturgy. The Vestry requested the Rev. Mr. Aiken to present the New Liturgy to the congregation on the first and third Sundays of September. Then the Vestry could judge as to whether or not the new liturgical format would be acceptable to the majority of the members of the congregation.

Welcomed into the Church, September 1969, George Zach Alden, Port Gibson, Miss.

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Bishop Fraser, in a form letter sent to each Rector in the Diocese, informed the congregations that the sum allocated by the National Episcopal Church for Black Cultural and Educational Advancement was optional and in no way would affect the assessments of the various parishes and missions in the Diocese. In fact, a goodly portion of the quota had already been absorbed by diocesan contributions made in New York and Philadelphia. Black clergymen also insisted that funds for Black Cultural projects be strictly optional, and in no way be attached to church assessment.

**Upkeep of Church Property:**

As the year 1969 ended, the Vestry found itself plagued by many annoying repair jobs to church property: painting, covering, and grounding the belltower; also getting a large swarm of black bees out of the tower. Putting locks on doors; improper drainage in the Parish House basement; re-roofing the Parish House and repainting the interior due to water damage. Restoring damage to the stained-glass windows had become a project, too. Then, both the "old" and new rectory buildings were constantly demanding attention.

Due to the small number of communicants in the Church of the Messiah congregation, merely meeting the budget requirements, the assessments of the Diocese, the evangelistic obligations and local participation in worthy causes placed a strain upon the Parish finances. Although the Parish had labored valiantly to secure its needed buildings, their possession was an additional worry to the members chosen to be responsible for their upkeep. Many members of a church organization do not realize that it's the business men and women, deeply involved in their own financial problems and personal affairs, who are chosen to leadership and to "police" church affairs. It's not always "moonlight and roses" for them.

**Vestry Minutes — March 12, 1970:**

Rev. Mr. Aiken tendered his resignation to accept a call to St. Peter's Church in Charleston, South Carolina. This resignation was to be effective May 1.

Norris France made a motion to accept with regrets this resignation, and to grant Mrs. Aiken permission to remain on in the Rectory until the end of the school year. The motion was seconded and passed.

January 8, 1970: Reverend Mr. Aiken read a letter from Mr. Charles Dean, who settled the estate of Mrs. Lottie Stewart, stipulating the use to which the three checks accompanying the letter were to be put.

One was for $100.00, a donation to the St. Claire Chapter of the Women of the Church. A second, for $500.00, was to be put in a Discretionary Fund to be administered jointly by the Rector and the Vestry. The third, for $500.00, was to establish a permanent memorial to Mrs. Stewart's parents.

**The Reverend Roland J. Whitmire, Jr., New Rector of the Parish**

For an interval of some seven months after the resignation of Rev. Mr. Aiken, May 1st, the Church of the Messiah was without a rector. Many prospects within the Diocese had been considered but not approved. Then it was that Norris France, Senior Warden, extended his search into the neighboring state of South Carolina.

So it was that the Rev. Roland J. Whitmire, Jr., came under observation. He at the time had been Chaplain at Clemson University for 4½ years. Prior to his call to Clemson, he had served some twelve years as Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Shelby, North Carolina. He was invited to visit the Rockingham parish and the town, which he did, together with Mrs. Whitmire and their daughters, Anne and Louise. The visit was rewarding, and the Vestrymen — Norris France, George Browder, Hugh Deal, Archie Palmer, and Gene Palmer immediately offered the Rev. Mr. Whitmire a call to the Church of the Messiah which he accepted, October 22, 1970.

The Rev. Roland J. Whitmire, Jr. attended St. Luke's Seminary at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., 1950-1953. He was ordained to the Diaconate by the Rt. Rev. M. George Henry, bishop of the diocese of Western North Carolina, May 27, 1953, and to the priesthood, May 26, 1954.

At the monthly meeting of the Vestry, November 18th, the Rev. Mr. Whitmire asked for suggestions on items needing immediate attention. The following two suggestions were considered a "must": (a) There were members who needed to be asked back to Church; (b) Sunday School and E.Y.C. groups needed to be rejuvenated. It was also decided that a letter of

thanks was in order to Jim and Ellen Nicolson for their help in "sprucing up" the Rectory.

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On December 13, 1970, St. Anne's Branch of Episcopal Churchwomen dissolved after 20 years as an organization. The following members joined St. Mary's or St. Claire's group: Mary Fowlkes, Kelly Phifer, Anne Black, Louise White, Eleanor Dockery, Nelie Leak, and Jane DiRienzo.

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**1971 Happenings:**

The Vestry decided that Miss Easdale Shaw's $500.00, left as a memorial, could be used to repair the organ. Mrs. Edna Avera and Mrs. John Covington, Jr., thanked the members of the congregation for their many kindnesses during the illness and loss of their husband and father. Mrs. Evelyn Whitley Palmer, Jeffrey, and Dale were transferred to St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, North Carolina. Mr. Archie Palmer requested his resignation from the Vestry, due to a transfer in his work. Cal Pruitt was named to replace him.

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**1972 Events:**

The Rector publicly thanked the members of the E.Y.C. who did such a fine job in painting 3 of the 5 rooms in the Parish House. A letter of appreciation was sent to Mr. James Nicolson for the many jobs he performed during the process of general repairs to church buildings. A letter of thanks was also sent to Mrs. Bernice McLaurin and an inscribed plaque presented to her as a token of gratitude for her many years of service as Treasurer. Rev. Mr. Whitmire proposed drastic remodeling of the Sanctuary and Chancel. He described the various needs for a more modern and roomier seating arrangement for the choir, and to prevent crowding on the part of the congregation when coming to the Altar Rail for Communion. The Vestry agreed to the carefully planned changes. This planned operation soon became a reality, thereby making the Sanctuary and Chancel more functional and beautiful.

Due to unwieldy arrangement of handling seven different accounts for monies donated or willed to the Church for the purchase of Memorials, it was agreed upon by all concerned that from now on, the Memorials Committee, composed of Cal Pruitt, Agnes Pruitt, Elizabeth Barwick, Chairman, and Louise White, Treasurer, would administer the funds. One consolidated account would be set up, and the Committee only would be responsible for the administering and accounting of the same.

IN MEMORIAM — THE REVEREND HOWARD STETLER HARTZELL: July 15, 1972

Aged 84 years — **Requiescat in Pace**

The Rector welcomed into the congregation Bo and Marie Watkins, and their two children: Carlia (8), and Bo, Jr., (3). * The Junior and Senior E.Y.C.'s went caroling at the Hospital and Nursing Homes in the Spirit of Christmas, while the Senior E.Y.C. decorated a Christmas Tree, providing toys and clothing for a needy family of five. They also took the family the much-needed food and linens collected by the Episcopal Churchwomen. Most of the participants in these kind acts declared that Christmas for 1972 had a deeper meaning for them than usual.

Due to the difficulty in securing an organist during the spring of 1972, Mrs. Ethel Miller, who was already serving the congregation and Rector as secretary, agreed to take on the double duty of organist and secretary. She performed both chores most efficiently until her husband, John Miller, moved away from Rockingham after his position with a Mill Firm was discontinued.

1973: On behalf of the Rector and congregation, the Vestry passed a resolution thanking the Norris France Family for their strong contribution to the life and work of the Church of the Messiah for the past decades. They wrote a page in the history of the Church as a lasting memorial. *Newly elected Vestrymen for the year were Agnes Pruitt, William Simmerman, and John Miller. *The gratitude of the congregation goes out to those worthy individuals who made the summer services more enjoyable by their contribution of the new air conditioner in the church.

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IN MEMORIAM — ELIZABETH NICOLSON WALL: July 23, 1973 Life-long supporter of the Church of the Messiah: Church School teacher — Faithful Communicant — Philanthropist — Delegate — Vestry Member — President of Episcopal Church Women — Hostess.

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The new lights were finally installed, making it much easier to read, also adding to the beauty of the church building. They were paid for entirely by undesignated memorial gifts which the Memorials Committee had been collecting for that purpose.

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As usual, on the eve of the summer months, the Church School classes were suspended until fall. The Rector thanked the teachers for their support during the past year. They were as follows: Mary Swicegood, Fran West, and Debbie Goodman; the E.Y.C. advisors were Edna Collier for the Juniors; Tom and Mary Wright for the Seniors.

September 16, 1973 (continued): Bishop Fraser, on his annual Parish visitation, conducted the Communion Service, preached and Confirmed two candidates; Mrs. Carol Price Long and Linda Janeil Pryce.

The Acolyte's supper meeting for September 17th was held at the Long's "Clubhouse". Acolyte's Day — October 20th, was a great occasion for the young people who attended. It included a Festival Holy Communion at Duke Chapel, lunch, and the Clemson-Duke footbal game.

**Church of the Messiah Remembered in Will of Elizabeth N. Wall:**

The Vestry of the Church of the Messiah, on January 14, received a letter and check in the amount of $20,000 from the Co-executors of the Estate of Elizabeth Nicolson Wall. The letter stipulated the uses, named in the **Will** of the late Elizabeth N. Wall, to which the monies could be applied. They were as follows: (a) $5,000.00 to be properly invested to yield funds solely for the use of the Altar Guild; (b) $2,400.00, plus interest, to be used for cancelling the present debt on the Rectory; (c) Approximately $7,500.00 to be used for the installation of heating and cooling systems in the Parish House and Church; (d) The remainder, subject to the approval of the Co-executors of the **Will**, to be used for capital improvement to the Church property only.

1974: The Vestry officers for the new year were as follows: William Simmerman, Senior Warden; David West, Junior Warden; Agnes Pruitt, Clerk; James Nicolson, Treasurer. The Rector and congregation welcomed Ron and Vanice Ballard into the Parish, May 19th. Mr. Ballard is a former native of Rockingham.

On June 11th, at 11 a.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and Paul, Washington, D. C., the new presiding Bishop, John Maury Allin, was installed amid the splendor and pagentry of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America.

June 23rd — The Bowdens, Laurence, Nancy, Larry, Michael, Kevin, and Keith were welcomed into the congregation of the Messiah. With the addition of Kevin and Keith Bowden and Davy and Walt West to the Acolytes Guild, the membership had risen to 14 active members.

During the month of July the Stephen Bakers joined those members of the Parish whose transfers due to employment arrangements are bad for the congregation. Steve was a faithful vestryman, lay reader, and choir member. He and his wife, Jaynell and two small children, Fay and Steve, depart with our blessing.

At his regular visitation to the Parish, October 27th, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Moore conducted a 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service, assisted by the Rector. He preached and confirmed Terry Lynn Powell, Beverly Jane Loury, David Philip West, Jr., and Ashley Douglas Loury.

1975: Agnes Pruitt, United Thank Offering chairman for the Episcopal Churchwomen, reported that the Spring Ingather-

ing amounted to $100.00. So far this is a record offering for the E.C.W. of the Parish.

The Acolytes installed on Sunday, June 1st, were Scott Collier, Mark Collier, Troy Collier, Alex Long, Wayne Powell, Danny West, David West, Walt West, Bill West, Keith Bowden, Kevin Bowden, and Lane Pryce.

Since the Church of the Messiah has no corner stone, as part of our 75th anniversary celebration, we will lay one! In it is to be placed a Cross, a Bible, a Book of Common Prayer, the Record of the Founders, and several other articles.

July 27, 1975: The needle work cushions dedicated at the 8 o'clock service were given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Nicolson Wall by her sister, Miss Mary Nicolson of Salisbury, North Carolina, and her niece, Mrs. James W. Smith.

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## POSTSCRIPT

★ ★

Back in 1900, the Church of the Messiah came into existence. It was a small frame building on a donated portion of a cow pasture. It had 23 communicants, according to the report in the Diocesan Journal for 1901 by the Rev. George M. Tolson, Minister-in-Charge of Church of the Messiah. Since its inception, this little Episcopal Church with its devoted communicants has, at times, risen to modest peaks of glory. On October 14, 1975, it will celebrate its 75th Birthday. We, the heirs of today and the custodians for the future, will pause to assess the accomplishments of the past and to reflect upon what we can do to ensure its perpetuation and usefulness in the lives of those who shall follow in the near future.

Surely, no small parish church, such as ours, has ever been blessed with more loyal leadership and congregational support than has The Church of the Messiah. God has Blessed It.

The outlook for the Church of the Messiah TODAY, however, is not without its ominous clouds looming above the horizon of TOMORROW. Dwindling church attendance and shortages in the budget give rise to talk of a backward trend — from "parish-status" to "organized-mission." Still other problems, nation-wide in scope, can be resolved only as the years unfold — namely, Christian Unity, revision of the Prayer Book, the return of decency in human relationships, women in the priesthood; winning young people back to the conception of a monolithic God (not that of polytheism and cults); moral integrity and personal evangelism — to name a few.

God, however, is not dead. Christ proved that on the third day after His Crucifixion. And the Church that survived

the pagan philosophy of Greece and the tyrannical might of Rome is equal to the materialistic challenges of today.

G.Z.A.

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## IN MEMORIAM

| | Date of Death |
|---|---|
| Mrs. Gertrude Alden Webb | Dec. 28, 1915 |
| Mrs. Sarah Ellen Beck | Dec. 26, 1917 |
| Mrs. Corneille Parsons Payne | Jan. 22, 1920 |
| Mrs. Sarah Alden Covington | March 3, 1921 |
| Eugene Payne | April 18, 1922 |
| James Dawkins | Dec. 31, 1923 |
| Miss Julia King | Jan. 11, 1924 |
| Mrs. Dora Dawkins | Feb. 9, 1924 |
| James Harry Gaskins | July 3, 1924 |
| Pearl May Meacham | Feb. 17, 1924 |
| Lillie Mae Sewell | Feb. 14, 1925 |
| Mrs. Cecilia Covington Thompson | Jan. 12, 1924 |
| Robert Pinckney Leak | April 10, 1925 |
| Mrs. Charles Broadhurst | April 22, 1926 |
| Mrs. Roberdel S. Leak | Jan. 7, 1927 |
| Alexander L. McDonald | July 22, 1927 |
| John M. Smith | Oct. 23, 1927 |
| Mrs. M. J. Napier | April 14, 1928 |
| Mrs. S. E. Linton | Jan. 30, 1928 |
| Roy Yates | Sept. 2, 1928 |
| Charles Broadhurst | Oct. 9, 1928 |
| Sarah Ann Hinson | June 28, 1924 |
| William M. Dygert | Oct. 7, 1929 |
| Mrs. Isaac Everett London | Jan. 9, 1930 |
| William Entwistle | Feb. 25, 1932 |
| John N. Hasty | Mar. 6, 1932 |
| Mial Wall McRae | Apr. 29, 1932 |
| Martha Lee Yates | Feb. 24, 1933 |
| S. W. Covington | Mar. 1, 1933 |
| Daniel M. McCall | Nov. 20, 1932 |
| Mrs. Ellen Williams | Apr. 26, 1933 |
| Joseph Theodore Collins | Feb. 4, 1934 |
| Dorothy Maurice | Feb. 14, 1934 |
| John Daschael | Jan. 9, 1936 |
| Julia Wheliss | May 14, 1936 |
| Johnie Teal Meacham | June 22, 1936 |
| Dr. Wm. W. Stancell | Feb. 9, 1939 |
| Mrs. Gladys M. Webb | Feb. 7, 1940 |
| Mrs. Wm. N. Everett | Feb. 28, 1940 |
| Mrs. Kathryn McRae | Mar. 24, 1940 |
| Henry C. Wall | Oct. 27, 1940 |
| Margaret Phillips | July 5, 1943 |
| Agatha Maurice Sharpe | Aug. 15, 1943 |
| Mildred Meacham | Apr. 16, 1944 |
| Joseph Meacham | July 12, 1944 |

Mrs. Kathryn M. McDonald ---------- July 26, 1944
Isaac Spencer London, Jr. ---------- Jan. 20, 1947
Daisy King Maurice ---------- Jan. 1, 1948
Grace Flynn Stemple ---------- July 27, 1949
Mrs. Thomas A. Covington ---------- Nov. 19, 1949
Fred W. Maurice ---------- Nov. 23, 1949
Marx Hugh Deal, Jr. ---------- May 2, 1952
William Walter King ---------- July 8, 1952
Rachel Louise Corpening ---------- Sept. 26, 1952
John Grover Wheliss ---------- Nov. 11, 1953
Mildred Sherril Harrison ---------- Jan. 5, 1954
Roberdel S. Leak ---------- Apr. 13, 1954
Whitford Alexander Snead ---------- May 12, 1954
The Rev. Edwin William Hurst ---------- Apr. 26, 1955
Thomas A. Covington ---------- Dec. 12, 1955
Victor H. Napier ---------- Dec. 25, 1955
Martha Tilghman Corpening ---------- Aug. 5, 1956
Mrs. Beatrix Long ---------- Feb. 22, 1957
Russell Ford ---------- Jan. 24, 1960
Mrs. Geneva H. King ---------- Apr. 11, 1960
Rufus Corbett ---------- Apr. 5, 1960
Miss Easdale Shaw ---------- Dec. 21, 1960
William N. Everett ---------- Mar. 29, 1961
Julia Wheliss Ratliff ---------- Apr. 19, 1961
Robert P. Dicks ---------- Apr. 22, 1961
Ellie Burton Bristow ---------- May 31, 1961
William Moncure, M.D. ---------- July 14, 1961
Edith Fayssoux Jones ---------- Mar. 12, 1962
Jake McLeod Willcox ---------- Jan. 1, 1964
Martha Daisy Wheliss ---------- Apr. 8, 1964
Isaac S. London ---------- July 7, 1964
Charles Winfield King ---------- Feb. 8, 1965
Lossie Mae (Davis) Lewis ---------- Mar. 29, 1965
James Pickett Leak, Jr. ---------- Mar. 11, 1965
Jeffress Kyle Lewis ---------- Oct. 14, 1966
Marguerite Drake Morgan ---------- Nov. 16, 1967
Joseph McDonald Alden ---------- Jan. 27, 1968
Vincent Lawrence DiRienzo ---------- Oct. 12, 1968
Ella Beall Blossom (Mrs.) ---------- Oct. 26, 1968
Mossie Long Hartzell ---------- May 12, 1969
Lottie Linton Stewart ---------- Dec. 1, 1969
Mrs. Virginia Pruitt ---------- July 24, 1970
Eugene Battle McNeely ---------- Mar. 14, 1971
Richard Deberry Carpenter ---------- Mar. 16, 1971
Arch Upshaw Avera ---------- June 8, 1971
Rev. Howard Stetler Hartzell ---------- July 15, 1972
Mrs. Nora Thompson Dicks ---------- Oct. 11, 1972
Mrs. Henry C. Wall ---------- July 23, 1973
Mrs. Eva Nicolson Walters ---------- Sept. 2, 1973
Hugh Lee Deal ---------- Nov. 28, 1973
Mary Etta Wheliss ---------- Apr. 11, 1974
Edward Burton Bristow ---------- Aug. 10, 1974

Lucille Minott Stanton ---------- Sept. 29, 1974
James Claud Stanton ---------- Dec. 21, 1974
Mrs. Lina L. Everett ---------- July 24, 1975

## MEMORIALS

A Memorial to

Receiving Basin

Rev. Charles M. Fetter
Presented by members of the Congregation

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Eucharistic Vestments and Altar Hangings
Presented by members of the Congregation

Pall:

In Memory of Robert Peale Dicks

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Altar Cross — Vase Set
To the Glory of God in Loving Memory of
Margaret Barry Shaw
Presented by Members and Relatives of
the John Duncan Shaw Family
May 26, 1907

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Lectern Donor's name withheld or lost in the flow of Time

---

Missal Stand A Memorial presented during the Mission Period of the Church of the Messiah
Honoring John Duncan Shaw
(Cir. 1913)

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Altar Altar Rails Chancel Carvings
To the Glory of God and Memorials to the
John Duncan Shaw Family
Donated to the Church by John D. Shaw, Sr.
1907

*These exquisitely handcarved gifts to the newly constructed Episcopal Church in 1900, are rare and par excellence.

---

Hand-carved Reredos Credence Table Bishop's Chair
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

| My Father | My Mother |
|---|---|
| Maj. John Duncan Shaw | Margaret Barry Shaw |
| 1833-1913 | 1836-1907 |

Presented to the Church of the Messiah by their daughter
Easdale Shaw
November 3, 1940

Sunday, November 3 ,1940, Bishop E. A. Penick, assisted by the Rev. Robert Martin Man and the Rev. Howard S. Hartzell, blessed and dedicated an impressive hand-carved Reredos, a Credence Table, and a Bishop's Chair, given to the Church by

Miss Easdale Shaw, an active Charter Member and promoter of the original structure of the Church of the Messiah, in 1900.

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Silver Lavabo

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Isaac Spencer London, Jr.
August 5, 1926 - January 20, 1947
Presented to the Church of the Messiah
By his sister, Payne London Hurst
August 15, 1949

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Processional Cross

In Memory of Eugene Gray Payne
(Superintendent of Church School)
1915-1922
Given by Young People's Fellowship
December 1924

---

Candelabra

In Memory of Samuel Lathan Maurice
and
Sallie Seago Maurice
Presented by Members of the Family

---

Altar Kneeling Cushions

To the Glory of God
Given by Sallie L. Shaw, Mossie Long Hartzell
and
Helen Long Follett
In Memory of Mrs. Bettie Flowers Long

---

Yard Light and Handrails

To the Glory of God
Presented by Lottie Linton Stewart
(Faithful Member of the Church for Sixty Years)
1872-1969

---

Altar Book and Stand

In Memory of John Duncan Shaw
June 26, 1833 - October 9, 1913
Donated by his daughter, Easdale Shaw

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Communion Candlesticks

To the Glory of God — Donor: Anonymous

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Lectern Bible

In loving memory of
Lena Everett London who
departed this life, January 9, 1930.

Presented to the
Church of the Messiah
by her husband, Isaac S. London,
and their four children:
William Everett, Lena Payne,
Bettie Louise, and Isaac Spencer, Jr.
Christmas, 1930

*Bishop Penick, Dec. 28, 1930, on his annual visit to the Church, consecrated the Lectern Bible. The 'Old Bible', given to the Church when it was dedicated in 1900, by Dr. W. H. Williams, now given to the Hamlet Church.

---

Pulpit

To the Glory of God and in Hallowed Memory of

Our Father
William Jerome King
Died — 1890

Our Mother
Martha Jane Warner King
Died — 1900

Our Sisters

Louisa A. King Sinclair
Died — 1901

Carrie M. King
Died — 1904

Julia A. King
Died — 1924

Presented to the Church of the Messiah by their sons:
Walter King and Charlie King
February 26, 1939

*On February 26, 1939, with a large congregation in attendance, Bishop Edwin A. Penick, of the Diocese of North Carolina, dedicated the Pulpit, given to the Church by the King brothers, Walter and Charlie. Both men were most loyal members, and had been Vestrymen for many years.

Later Replaced — New Pulpit also a memorial to the Kings

---

Church Flag

In Memory of Whitford Alexander Snead
Given by His Brothers and Sisters

---

American Flag

Donated by the Church School

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Baptismal Font

To the Glory of God
Presented to the Church of the Messiah
In Memory of
John Parsons
November 3, 1940

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Lavabo Bowl

In Memory of Kate (Mrs. A. L.) McDonald
(Charter Member of the Church of the Messiah)
Donated by her Great Niece
Mrs. Charles Broadfoot, Jr.
1944

Baptismal Ewer

In Loving Memory of Our Parents
Daisy King Maurice and Frederick William Maurice
Presented by
Julia Maurice Ellerbe and George F. Maurice

---

Prayer Desk

In Memory of Corneille Parsons Payne
Donated by Members of her Family

---

Prayer Desk Prayer Book

In Memory of William Walter King
(Charter Member of the Church of the Messiah)
Presented by Leaton M. Williams

---

ALLEN ORGAN
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Henry C. Wall — **October 27, 1940**
Presented to the Church of the Messiah by
His Wife, Elizabeth Nicolson Wall
Whitsunday — May 21, 1961
*Dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Richard Henry Baker, Bishop
Assisted by the Rev. Jesse S. Sparks, Rector

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Communion Set

To the Glory of God and In Memory of
John Duncan Shaw — Margaret Barry Shaw
John Duncan Shaw, Jr. Angus Barry Shaw
Alexander Clifton Shaw
A Family Donation

---

Sacristy

To the Glory of God
(A gracious and beneficial addition to the Church)
Given by James M. Nicolson and his wife Ellen
Dedicated by Bishop Richard Henry Baker
Assisted by the Rev. Jesse S. Sparks
1961

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Communion Rail

To the Glory of God
Donated By
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Nicolson

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Altar Book

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Arthur Glenn Corpening and Louise Linton Corpening
Given by Mary Corpening Robinson

## THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS ABOVE THE REREDOS

To the Glory of God
Donated to the Church of the Messiah by
James M. Nicolson and Wife Ellen
Passion Sunday, March 15, 1964
*Dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Richard Henry Baker, Bishop

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Pulpit Light
To the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Nancy Fairley Cobb and Roland J. Whitmire, Sr.

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Heating System
To the Glory of God
Donated by the
Elizabeth Nicolson Wall Estate

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Alms Basin
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Marx Hugh Deal

---

Alms Basin
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Minnie Stackley Hurst

---

Brass (10") Altar Vases
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Virginia Calhoun Pruitt
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun Pruitt

---

Lectern Bible R. S. V.
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Virginia Calhoun Pruitt
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun Pruitt

---

Clergy-Acolyte Seat
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
The Reverend Howard S. Hartzell
Given by Friends and Family
(Rector: 1922-1934)

---

Chalice and Patten
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Mossie Long Hartzell
Given by Friends and Family

---

Rose Window
To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Nora Thompson Dicks and Robert Peal Dicks
Given by Family and Friends

Nave Lights

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Elizabeth N. Wall — Virginia C. Pruitt
Samuel E. Lenton — Mary McR. Lenton

---

Chancel Lights

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
David Follett, Jr.
Given by Helen Long Follett

---

Litany Desk

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
James Pickett Leak
Given by Cornelia E. Leak — James Pickett Leak III
and Robert Edwards

---

Memorial Book Case

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Arthur Glenn Corpening and Louise Linton Corpening
Given by Mary Corpening Robinson

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Water Fountain

To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Virginia Calhoun Pruitt — Lottie Linton Stewart
Given by St. Claire's Circle — E.C.W.

Advent Wreath Table

To the Glory of God
Given by Dr. Philip White

---

## ORGANISTS OF THE CHURCH

### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

There let the pealing Organ blow
To the full voic'd Choir below,
In Service high and Anthems clear,
As may with sweetness, through myne ear,
Dissolve me into ecstasies,
And bring all Heav'n before mine eyes.
(from **Il Penseroso** by John Milton.)

Music and song have been inseparable in the history of practically every religion, from the most primitive tribal worship to the highly organized orthodox evangelical rites used in churches today.

Whether it be stirring tempos of "Onward Christian Soldiers," the "Hallelujah Chorus," or the quiet, hallowed tones of Beethoven and Bach, the human spirit seems lifted beyond the realms of the everyday world at the sound of music.

The members of the Choir are themselves unordained ministers, proclaiming God's word through song. That is why they sit within the chancel of the church, between the altar and the congregation.

Incomplete as this list may be, but as a record for the future years, the spirit of this publication pays tribute to these talented organists who, in their day, made worship in the Church of the Messiah more meaningful and heartfelt:

Miss Everall Aiken
Rev. Mr. Aiken
Mrs. Bell
Mrs. Kate Bennett
Mrs. Sewell Bowers
Miss Elizabeth Brewer
Mr. William Hargrove
Mrs. Howard Hartzell (12 yrs.)
Mr. C. Haywood, Jr.
Mrs. R. Boyce Henry
Miss Mary Infinger
Mr. McKellar Israel
Mrs. Lydia Love
Mrs. Robert Man
Mr. William McCory
Mrs. Ethel Miller
Miss Joe Prevette
Miss Elizabeth Reynolds
Rev. C. Robinson
Mrs. B. Rollins
Mr. Roger Sanders
Mr. Felton Smith
Mrs. Helen Snead (20 yrs.)
Mrs. James Turnage
Mr. Williamson

## RECTORS OF THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

### (A Chronology)

The Unorganized Mission Church
Prior to 1900

The Rev. A. H. Boyle ---------- 1877-1880
The Rev. Francis W. Hilliard ---------- 1893-1895
The Rev. Charles Fetter ---------- 1896-1901

The Mission Church
Prior to 1924

The Rev. George M. Tolson ---------- 1901-1908
The Rev. Charles Fetter ---------- 1901 & 1908
The Rev. James L. Martin ---------- 1905-1907
The Rev. Richard R. Phelps ---------- 1907-1908
The Rev. Edwin A. Osborne ---------- 1908-1913 & 1914
The Rev. William H. Ball ---------- 1910-1911
The Rev. Mr. Swann ---------- 1914-1915
The Rev. Thomas L. Trott ---------- 1915-1917
The Rev. Sanford Louis Rotter ---------- 1918-1921

The Parish Church
1924-1975

The Rev. Howard S. Hartzell ---------- 1922-1934
The Rev. James Edwin Bethea ---------- 1934-1936
The Rev. Edwin William Hurst ---------- 1937-1938
The Rev. Robert Martin Man ---------- 1938-1942
The Rev. Robert W. Turner, Jr. ---------- 1943-1945
The Rev. Ralph Andrew Bridges ---------- 1946-1948
The Rev. G. Stackley Hurst ---------- 1949-1950
The Rev. Clayton Earl Robinson ---------- 1951-1958
The Rev. John A. Zunes ---------- 1958-1959
The Rev. Jesse S. Sparks ---------- 1960-1962
The Rev. John W. Tucker ---------- 1962-1966
The Rev. Warwick Aiken, Jr. ---------- 1967-1970
The Rev. Roland J. Whitmire, Jr. ---------- 1970-

*This Chronology does not include all the Interim Clergy.

# Copy Of The Church Deed

DEED

JOS. B. CHESHIRE, BISHOP al FROM W. I. EVERETT & WIFE F. H. EVERETT

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

THIS DEED, MADE THIS 27th day of April, 1899 by W. I. Everett and his wife, F. H. Everett, of Richmond County, North Carolina, of the first part, and Jos. B. Cheshire, Bishop Richard H. Battle, Charles E. Johnson, Trustees, Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of North Carolina, in the State of North Carolina, authorized under the law and Cannons of said Church to hold its property in said Diocese by virtue of Section 3667 of the Code of North Carolina, of the second part:

WITNESSETH:

That the said W. I. Everett and wife, F. H. Everett, in consideration of One Dollar to them paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, and sold, and by these present do bargain, sell and convey to parties of the second and their successors or trustees, a certain tract of land in the Town of Rockingham, Richmond County, North Carolina, to be used for the purpose of building a house of worship for the Episcopal Church, to their use only so long as it may be used as place of worship.

—Should it be abandoned or discontinued to be used as such then land only to revert to the use of the party of the first part and his heirs.

—Bounded as follows, BEGINNING AT the Northeast intersection of Greene and Lawrence Streets and runs in an Easterly direction with Greene Street 140 feet to a stake, thence in a Northerly 65 feet to a stake; thence in a Westerly Direction 140 feet to Lawrence Street 65 feet to the beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD as afore said, with appurtenances there to belonging to the party of the second part and their successors,

The party of the first part covenants that they are seized of said premises in fee and have right to convey in fee simple, which they will warrant and defend against all claims.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, THE SAID W. I. EVERETT and wife, F. H. Everett, have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and date written.

W. I. Everett (SEAL)
F. H. Everett (SEAL)

Probate in due form and according to law (C. B. D.)
Duly filed and recorded November 8, 1899, H. D. Gibson, Reg of Deeds. Recorded in Book NNN, at page 256, Registry of Richmond County, North Carolina.

# Of Places Of Worship

History records and explains the past. But the history of a church is dealing with more than material things. It is concerned primarily with the struggle of the human spirit to prepare a more fitting existence in a place recommended by a young man called JESUS OF NAZARETH, the MESSIAH.

Now, as in the past, men and women have sought to erect an edifice wherein they may worship their Supreme Being. Regardless of their concept of a world divinity, they have conceived of a force greater than themselves and worthy of their adoration. Only the most beautiful and unblemished offerings would they bring unto Him.

Following the crucifixion of Christ, His followers had no opportunity to construct fine churches in which to worship, for there was a price upon their heads. They met by night in private homes called "house-churches". Even these had murals representing scenes from Christ's life, one of the earliest types of Christian art. Other places were obscure spots such as the catacombs in Rome. Even then, Christians had sentinels to warn against Roman officials. To walk the dark tunnels of Rome, with a small flickering candle for light and flanked by dank ledges strewn with the moldering dust of thousands of the Faithful, makes one vividly conscious of the bravery of the early Christians. And there at the end of the trail, far beneath the once rushing chariots and the stamp of marching legions, one finds himself in a large cave, in the center of which is a handsome tomb of an early Christian bishop. One can easily conjure up the sight of the aged disciple Peter in the last days of his ministry, in loose flowing robes of white, his long white beard and hair swaying, as he exhorted the faithful never to waver in their trust in the Living God.

Early in the 4th century, Constantine, the first Christian emperor, legalized Christianity. It was then that Christian architecture began. The best designs yet accomplished in Europe and Asia Minor were sometimes mingled. Slowly the Greeks, Romans, and Scandinavians gave up their trappings of religious myths and legendary heroes for a feverent acceptance of the Christian religion. Then churches and cathedrals of quality began to appear. Even the unique cathedral of Notre Dame in

Paris had been built by the 12th century. Then came the Renaissance. The best that man had yet conceived in art, sculpture, and architecture were combined by master builders to produce magnificent structures, even surpassing the superb Parthenon in Athens.

In the United States, designs of the Episcopal Church have retained the dominant features of the early Anglican architecture of the British Isles. The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and the stately Washington Cathedral, both Episcopal in worship, represent some of the finest workmanship found in houses of worship. The regular parish churches usually follow the traditional pattern of a nave, transept, chancel, and sanctuary. While outwardly, they usually adhere to the design of the cross. The symbolism is impressive, for the lowly vehicle used by the Romans to execute the Lord is now a symbol of God's love for man, of whom the Psalmist David sings as being made "a little lower than the Angels."

G. Z. A.

# The Vestry — 1975

Mr. William O. Simmerman, Senior Warden

Mr. Douglas J. Loury, Junior Warden

Mrs. Kenneth Goodman, Clerk

Mrs. G. Calhoun Pruitt

Mrs. David Follett

Mr. Walter F. Long, IV

Mr. Laurence O. Bowden

Treasurer: Mr. James Nicolson

GC 283.75634 A358c
Alden, George Z,
The Church of the Messiah, 1900-1975 : a
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DATE DUE

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